

# animals&men

THE JOURNAL OF THE CENTRE FOR FORTEAN ZOOLOGY



## The Welsh sea-serpent;

Hominid-hunt in Belize - Expedition Report;  
New Nessie pictures; Malayan orang-utan?;  
Mysterious Sea Creature in Cumbria -  
exclusive Photographs; *Homo floriensis*....

*Animals & Men* is the quarterly journal of the  
**Centre for Fortean Zoology**; a non profit  
 making organisation administered by:



CFZ, 15 Holne Court,  
 Exwick, Exeter,  
 Devon, EX4 2NA,  
 England

Tel: 01392 424811  
 web site: <http://www.cfz.org.uk>  
 email: [cfz@eclipse.co.uk](mailto:cfz@eclipse.co.uk)

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS

For a 4-issue (one year) subscription:  
 £10 UK    £11 EC  
 £16 US / Canada / Oz / NZ  
 (airmail)  
 £18 Rest of World.

## METHODS OF PAYMENT

Subscription rates INCLUDE postage. On other orders, postage and packing is extra: please add 25p (£0.30 outside UK) per magazine and 75p (£0.90 outside UK) per book. Payment can be made in UK cash,, Euro-cheque, or a cheque drawn on a UK bank. Britain is one of the few countries in the world where US dollars do **not** circulate. If making payment in US\$ then please add \$14 to cover the currency exchange fee.



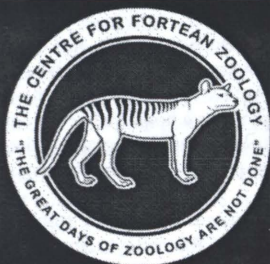
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The CFZ Trust is registered as a non-profit-making organisation with HM Stamp Office.

The trustees are J. Downes, R. Freeman and G. Inglis.

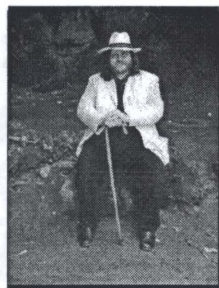
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# EDITORIAL

jonathan downes



Dear Friends,

Welcome to another issue of the world's only dedicated cryptozoological magazine. We are particularly proud of this issue - indeed some people in the office (mentioning no names) claim that this is the best issue that we have done to date. We are particularly pleased to be able to print Ken Gerhard's account of his recent expedition to Belize. I was able to meet up with Ken during my visit to San Antonio in November, and I am pleased to say that we soon discovered that we were kindred spirits, although - sadly for Richard - he is now not the world's *only* gothic cryptozoologist.

One of the most frustrating things about the current position of the CFZ is that there are many researchers across the globe, with whom I am on first name terms, and whom - purely because of the distance involved - I never get around to meeting, so hooking up with Ken last year and Chester Moore Jr the year before was a real treat for me.

Whilst on the subject of Chester, he recently wrote to us telling us about the latest Southern Crypto Conference - an event that seeks to raise awareness to mysterious animals ranging from the ivory-billed woodpecker to Bigfoot creatures. Their goal is always to educate and to raise funds for research and conservation.

This will be the fourth annual conference June 18, 2005 and they expect a bigger turnout (they always get more than 200 attendees) and greater media support than ever.

On a sadder note. I do not generally bring my personal life into these pages, but on this occasion I feel that I must. Some of you will already be aware that Suzy and I separated in early February, and that I am now living back in bachelor quarters at the CFZ itself. The separation was amicable and no-one else was involved. However, it is beginning to seem, to me at least, that cryptozoology is indeed a very harsh mistress.

This spring two more CFZ Expeditions are underway. Davey Curtis has been generous enough to fund our first trip to Loch Morar in early April, and a month later Dr Chris Clark, Richard Freeman, Dave Churchill and Jon Hare are off to Mongolia in search of the deathworm.

The Weird Weekend is on August 19th-21st this year with a bigger selection of speakers than ever, including Peter Costello, Dr Lars Thomas, Ronan Coghlan, Steve Jones, Dr Simon Sherwood and many more. Please support us, as this event is pivotal to our funding for the year's research.

Until next time  
Slainte  
Jon Downes (Director, CFZ)

*The Great Days of Zoology are not done - Bernard Heuvelmans*

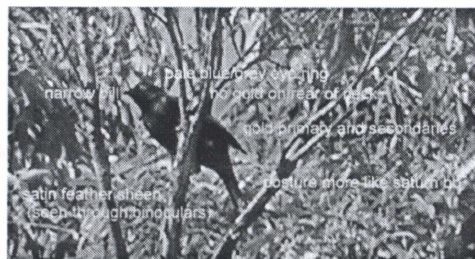


Edited and compiled by Jon Downes  
and Richard Freeman



### BOWER-WOW-WOW

Photographs of an unusual bird seen in the Gold Coast hinterland have recently led to the solving of a 140-year Australian mystery. Rawnsley's Bowerbird, generally considered a unique hybrid



of the Satin and Regent Bowerbirds, has not been seen since its discovery in Brisbane in the 1860s. Questions as to whether the bird was a hybrid, a new species, a mutant or a hoax had never been answered conclusively. But photographs taken at Beechmont at least prove the bird still exists..

Environmental consultant Dan Blunt, who took the first photographs of Rawnsley's Bowerbird in November, said he had noticed the bird perched on his chicken pen. *"I was pretty excited, I can tell you, to be the first person in [almost] 150 years to recognize a bird no one else had seen. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime thing", he said.*

### STICKING IT TO THE MAN

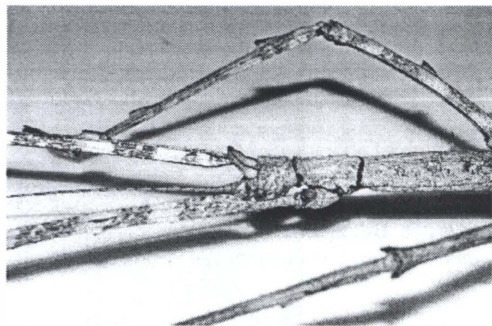
What could be the longest insect discovered this millennium has been found in the basement of the Transvaal Museum. It had been lurking there for almost a century. The stick insect, now known as *Bactrododema krugeri*, had been incorrectly classified since 1912.



Since then it has been hidden among two million other species in the underground rooms of the general insect collection of the museum - until it was recently rediscovered and renamed. The insect, which was previously identified as *Bactrododema tiaratum*, because it looks so similar to that giant stick insect, measures up to 30cm (12in).

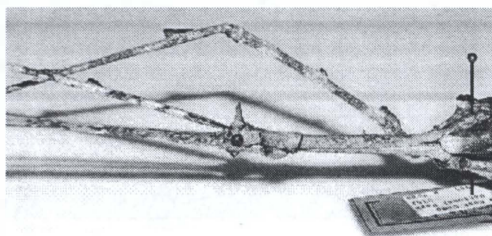
Dr Rob Toms, from the invertebrates research department at the Transvaal Museum, in Pretoria,





FEMALE *Bactrododema krugeri*

explained the misclassification: "What happened was that around the turn of the previous century, there was a lot of activity, and people from Europe were finding species and giving them names. "A lot of stick insects were discovered. The *Bactrododema tiaratum* (a type of giant stick insect) was described six different times, and that species was confused with the *Bactrododema krugeri*," Toms said.



MALE *Bactrododema krugeri*

He said the first specimens of the *krugeri* were brought to the Transvaal Museum in 1912. They were mounted and incorrectly named, and not investigated any further. Since then, several specimens were collected from the Kruger Park, the Musina Nature Reserve and even from Botswana.

## HIDING AT HARDING

Scientists in Western Australia's Pilbara have been left wondering about the origins of a newly discovered species of lizard. The yet to be named black gecko is 12cm (5in) long, has a duck-like head, and goggly eyes.

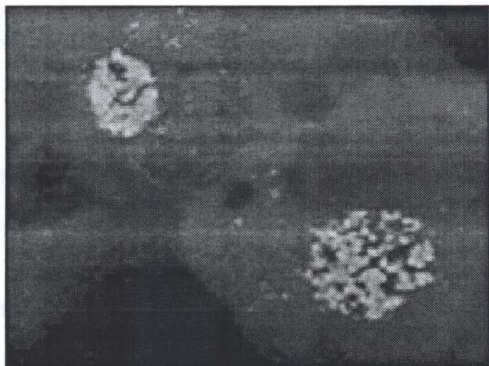
The reptile was discovered near Harding Dam, east of Karratha, as part of a three-year study into the Pilbara's fauna.

Herpetologist Paul Doughty says he is perplexed as to how the gecko came to be living in the arid Pilbara region. "*The main relatives of this one are on the Pacific islands and it's got a couple of Australian relatives, like I said, in Cape York, so turning up here in the Pilbara is puzzling,*" he said.

The research team has also found three other lizards and a mammal which may also be declared new species.

## Giant GERM

A strange life form has been identified in the north of England. Genetic analysis reveals that the organism is so bizarre and unlike anything else seen by scientists that perhaps it should be placed in its own category of living things.



The creature, discovered in a small industrial cooling tower on the outskirts of the town of Bradford, could qualify for a new "domain" in the tree of life. The "giant virus", dubbed the Mimivirus, or "mimicking microbe", because it was first mistaken for a bacterium, inhabits amoebae and is more than twice as big as any other virus so far found. At about half a millionth of a metre across - around the size of a small bacterium - it is one of the few that can be seen under a light microscope.

The microbiologist who found the new kind of creature now runs a hardware shop in Shipley, West Yorkshire. Tim Rowbotham, 56, said he was pleased that the organism, which he originally named Bradfordcoccus, had turned out to be so significant. Dr Richard Birtles, now at the University of Liverpool, did postdoctoral work on the samples with Professor Didier Raoult in Marseilles. "We could not identify the gene," he said. "We could not understand it."

The Mimivirus - which so far has only been found in Bradford - appears to represent a new family of "nucleocytoplasmic" large DNA viruses that emerged with the first life on Earth some four billion years ago, said Professor Raoult.

### DOES IT EAT BOYS?

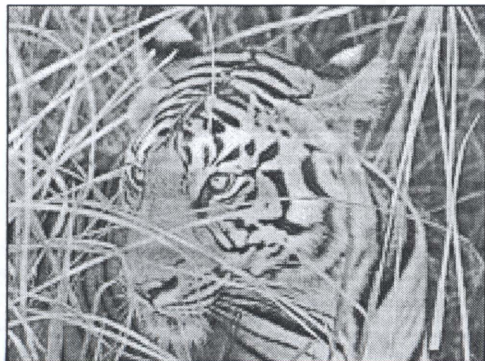
A new genetic study of the tiger family has uncovered a previously unknown sub-species of the big cats, researchers report in the journal *Plos Biology*. Evidence suggested previous attempts to classify tigers may have been flawed. So the team sampled DNA from 130 tigers from eastern Russia, China, India and countries in south-east Asia. The new sub-species, *Panthera tigris jacksoni*, is named after tiger campaigner Peter Jackson and comes from splitting one sub-species into two.

The so-called Indochinese subspecies should be divided into two groups, representing a northern Indochinese and a peninsular-Malayan population, the scientists say. Eight sub-species of *Panthera*

the scientists say. Eight sub-species of *Panthera tigris* are traditionally recognised on the basis of physical characteristics and geography, three of which have recently gone extinct. Shu-Jin Luo and colleagues from the National Cancer Institute's Laboratory of Genomic Diversity in Maryland, US, carried out the latest study to see whether these traditional groupings were reflected in genes. But their DNA analysis suggested that just six should be recognised.

### TIGER SUB-SPECIES

Amur - (*Panthera tigris altaica*)  
N. Indochinese - (*P. t. corbetti*)  
South China - (*P. t. amoyensis*)  
Malayan - (*P. t. jacksoni*)  
Sumatran - (*P. t. sumatrae*)  
Bengal - (*P. t. tigris*)



Three sub species of tiger are classed as extinct. The small Bali tiger died out in the 1930s due to hunting and habitat loss. The last known Caspian tiger was shot in 1959 and the Javan tiger was supposed to have died out in the early 1980s.

A Caspian tiger was supposedly captured in NE Afghanistan in 1997. Tracks and sightings suggest it may survive on the Turkey / Iran border. Tracks found in a national park in Java last year suggest a relic population of Javan tigers may survive.



## NEW SPECIES IN BRIEF

\* Richard Highton - a university professor emeritus - is waiting for the confirmation of the 24th salamander he has discovered. The newest species was found in central Virginia and will be announced this week in a Virginia State Museum scientific magazine. The name cannot be announced until the species is cleared through publication, he said. Highton has collected salamanders from thousands of locations in the eastern United States throughout his 53 year career, he said. *"I did most of my field work in the 1950s to 70s, but we have freezers here with enough samples to study for 20 years or more,"* he said.

\* A 10in (25cm) leech from Salem County: NJ. Dan Shain, an evolutionary biologist at Rutgers-Camden, and one of the few leech experts in the country, says he believes it might be a new species of *Haemopsis*, a North American terrestrial leech.

Until now, the only North American terrestrial leech could be found mostly in the Midwest, South and Southeast. "This is one of the biggest leeches found in North America, period," Shain said.

\* The Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd (GNS) exploration of the deep sea floor was the first in a manned submersible in New Zealand, and investigated the Brothers volcano, 400km northeast of White Island and 1800m below the sea. In an 18-day expedition involving four eight-hour dives at two sites, the scientists used a Japanese-operated Shinkai 6500 submersible to collect geological samples and sea floor creatures for analysis in New Zealand.

Biological samples taken included shrimp, scale worms, crabs, eel-fish, limpets, and tube worms - the first time the species had been recorded in New Zealand territorial waters.

The scientists believe that up to 30 per cent of the creatures they collected might never have been investigated before.

\* English Nature has announced that pine martens may not have become extinct in England after all. Well duh!!! I would suggest that people read the CFZ publication *The Smaller Mystery Carnivores of the Westcountry* (1996) so that we can say a resounding WE TOLD YA SO!!!

\* Marine scientists say they have discovered 178 new species of fish and hundreds more new species of plants and other animals in the past year, raising the number of life-forms found in the world's oceans to about 230,000. Discoveries being made public include a gold-speckled and red-striped goby fish, found in Guam's waters, that somehow lives in partnership with a snapping shrimp at its tail. While the goby stands sentinel, the shrimps digs a burrow that both use for shelter.

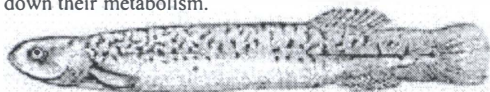
Another surprise for biologists was a colony of rhodoliths, a coral-like marine algae, found in Prince William Sound in Alaska. The hard, red plants, which resemble toy jacks, roll like tumbleweeds in the beds used as nurseries by shrimp and scallops. The Census of Marine Life, now four years into a planned 10-year count, say the rate of discovery shows no sign of slowing, even in European and other waters heavily studied in the past.

\* Genetic testing has shown that an animal scientists thought was the common ornate wobbegong is actually a new species of shark. Charlie Huvaneers says scientists originally thought that the dwarf-like shark was a juvenile wobbegong. *"We first thought the small wobbegong was a juvenile of the large ornate wobbegong shark but then realised there were some differences with the major one,"* he said.

## ITS NAME IS MUD

A threatened New Zealand fish last spotted 50 years ago has been found flourishing in the Tomarata wetlands, near Wellsford. The Auckland Regional Council has discovered a large healthy population of the threatened native black mudfish.

Council spokeswoman Dianne Glenn says the discovery demonstrates the importance of protecting habitats such as wetlands. She says the farmer that owns the wetland did not drain it and fenced the area to keep stock out. As a result the mud fish survived. Mudfish live up to eight years and when water runs low they go into a form of hibernation, burying themselves in mud and slowing down their metabolism.



## STOP THAT BLOODY WAILING

A lone whale, with a voice unlike any other, has been wandering the Pacific for the past 12 years, American marine biologists said Wednesday. Using signals recorded by the US navy to track submarines, they traced the movement of whales in the Northern Pacific and found that a lone whale singing at a frequency of around 52 hertz has cruised the ocean since 1992. Its calls, despite being clearly those of a baleen, do not match those of any known species of whale, which usually call at frequencies of between 15 and 20 hertz. The mammal does not follow the migration patterns of any other species either, according to team leader Mary Anne Daher. The calls of the whale, which roams the ocean every autumn and winter, have deepened slightly as a result of aging, but are still recognizable.

## COLOSSAL CAVY

German scientists have discovered a new species of guinea pig, with the animal's sex habits proving to be the giveaway: it is the only guinea pig that stays loyal to its partner. The other 14 known guinea pig species are polygamous. Given the species name *Galea monasteriensis*, or Muenster guinea pig, after the German city where the animals were first closely studied. The rodents bring the number of all known mammal species on the planet to about 4,250. The animals have red-grey hair, weigh about 300g and eat grass. University of Muenster behavioural biologists

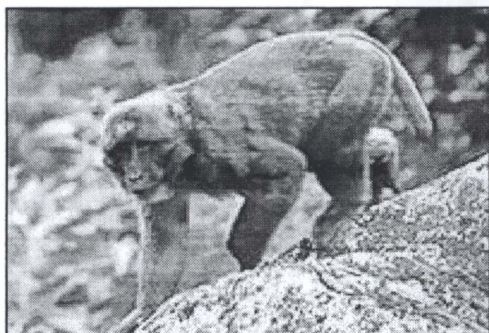
discovered the animals by accident. Department head Norbert Sachser said they caught 12 in Cochabamba province after a German aid worker in the Bolivian highlands suggested they might be useful to avoid inbreeding among laboratory guinea pigs. *"But we never got any offspring when we crossed them,"* said Sachser. *"The different shape of their sexual organs probably made it impossible,"* said biologist Katrin Solmsdorff. Other unique features of the new species were that fathers played with their offspring rather than fighting with them.

## BEGGING U PLEASE 2 COME HOME

*Indotyphlus maharashtriensis* is a new species of 20cm long caecilian from India's western ghats. Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) scientist Varad Giri says that the new addition to the 25 previously recorded species of caecilian in India may not be as glamorous as a tiger, but is as ecologically significant. *"Caecilians are not charismatic animals,"* he admits, *"but it is important to study them because amphibians in the western ghats are poorly documented so far, and many species may even become extinct before they have been recorded."*

## DORTY MONKEE

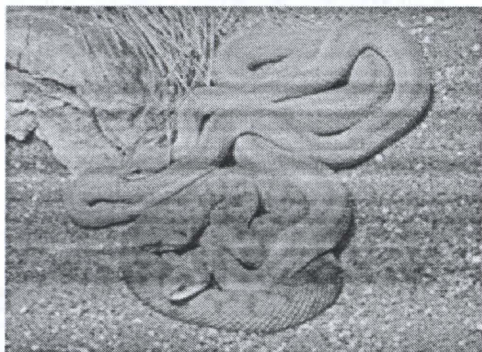
A species of monkey unknown to science has been photographed in India by an international team of researchers. The monkey, a member of the macaque family, was sighted in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, which lies in the country's remote north-eastern region. Named the Arunachal macaque, the new monkey is a comparatively large brown primate with a relatively short tail. The scientists say they are surprised to have found a hitherto unknown large mammal in such a populous country.





## RETURN OF THE DAMMED

During their expeditions to Iran in the mid-1970s, Swedish zoologists Göran Nilson and Claes Andrén of Göteborg University were amazed to find dozens of unknown amphibians and reptiles. Then came the 1979 Islamic revolution, which put Iran off-limits to Western scientists. The research-



ers had no choice but to take their work elsewhere. "In the back of our minds, we always hoped to come back to Iran to continue our work," Andrén said. In 2000 they got their chance. Narullah Rastegar-Pouyani—an Iranian student at Göteborg University who was doing his dissertation on Iran's reptiles—arranged for the two scientists to get back inside the country. Two expeditions, in 2000 and 2002, did not disappoint. In addition to finding ten more lizards and snakes, the scientists were thrilled to find an isolated population of vipers (*Vipera latifii*). Zoologists had feared that the species had gone extinct when a new dam had flooded the viper's habitat in the late 1970s.

## 1-2-3 WHAT ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Vietnam's Institute for Ecology and Biological Resources has announced 16 species of reptiles and amphibians found for the first time in Vietnam. The announcement was made following joint research conducted by the institute, the Biological Institute of Saint Petersburg (Russia),

the American Natural History Museum and the World Wildlife Fund. The newly-discovered species include 14 frog species with scientific names *Rana trankieni* Orlov, *Rana bacboensis*, *Rana daorum* Bain, *Rana hmongorum*, *Rana morafkai*, *Rana banaorum*, *Rana megatympanum*, *Rana iriodes* Bain, *Rana tabaca* Bain, *Chirixalus anajevae*, *Philautus supercornutus*, *Mirohyla marmorata*, *Microhyla pulverata*, and *Microhyla nanapollexa*. A new species of snake named *Trimeresurus truongsongensis* and a chameleon called *Bronchocela orlovi* were also listed. These species mainly live in Son La, Lao Cai and Ha Giang provinces (in the north); Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Thua Thien-Hue, Quang Binh and Quang Nam provinces (in the centre); and Gia Lai province (central highlands).

## WHERE'S FAT FREDDIES CAT?

A "monster" cockroach and other new insects have been discovered in the jungles of Borneo, scientists say. An expedition of caves and cliffs, led by the Nature Conservancy, also said it saw previously unknown fish and plants. "In just five weeks, the expedition team discovered numerous new species previously unknown to science," the conservancy's Scott Stanley said. "Who knows what else is out there?" he added, calling for the area surveyed in East Kalimantan to be preserved. "If something is not done soon to protect these areas, dozens of species could disappear before anyone knew they ever existed."



## HARD SPORTIVES

After more than six years of work in remote forests of Madagascar and DNA laboratory tests in Omaha, a researcher at Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo can officially claim the discovery of two new species of lemurs. Researcher Edward Louis will see his findings published in the December 2005 issue of the *International Journal of Primatology*.

The discovery of a new primate species is rare, said Jeff French, a primatologist at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. Only a handful are reported each decade, he said, and that makes the zoo's findings especially significant.

Louis, a veterinarian and nuclear geneticist, leads the genetics department at the zoo's Grewcock Center for Conservation and Research. He coordinates the zoo's Madagascar Biodiversity and Biogeography Project. He works six to nine months a year in Madagascar, often hiking and camping in primitive conditions. With help from field guides and graduate students, he has sampled more than 1,800 lemurs.

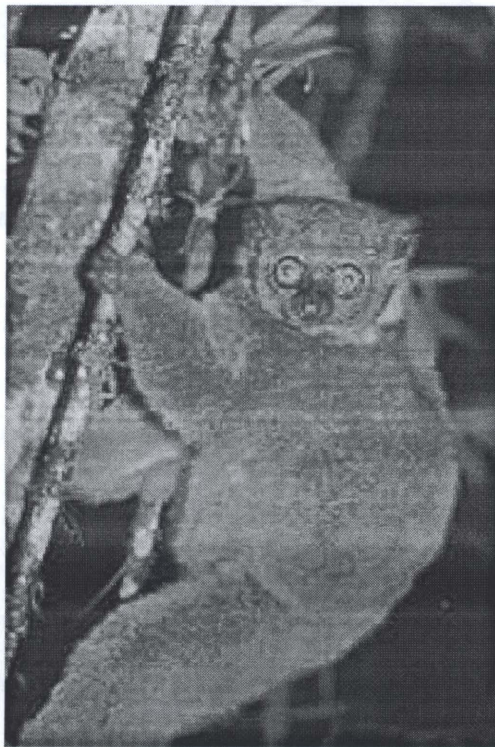
By 2003, Louis had identified five new species of lemurs. The forthcoming publication about two of them means that his observations have been reviewed and confirmed by other scientists. The three others are under review. The two newly confirmed species are sportive lemurs living in different types of forest in Madagascar. They are the first new species ever discovered by the Omaha zoo.

One species lives in rain forest on the east coast. It is the Seal's Sportive Lemur (*Lepilemur seali*), named in honor of Ulysses S. Seal III, a former chairman of the Conservation Breeding Specialist Group of the International Union of Conservation of Nature. The other species lives in dry forest on the west coast. It is the Mitsinjo Sportive Lemur (*Lepilemur mitsinjonensis*), named for the region where it lives.



TOP: The Mitsinjo Sportive Lemur, newly identified by Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo, lives in the forests of western Madagascar.

BOTTOM: The Seal's Sportive Lemur lives in eastern Madagascar.





# LAKE AND SEA MONSTERS

## Playing on his old Banjo

A family in British Columbia has gone public two months after a close encounter with what they believe could be Canada's legendary Ogopogo lake monster. The Casorso family was startled from sleep Aug. 9 when their rented houseboat on Okanagan Lake, about 250 km northeast of Vancouver, began to rock violently.

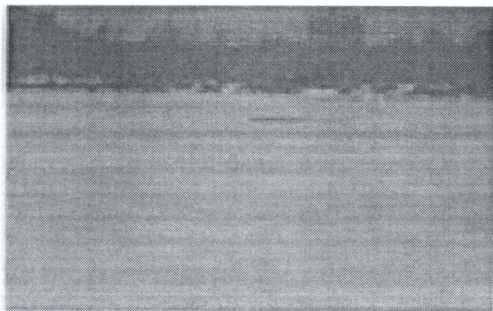
*"My first thought was it was my teenage sons goofing around,"* says Kelowna resident John Casorso. *"But then I thought, 'How could they rock a 35-foot vessel?'"*

Casorso and his wife joined five others on the deck of the boat to investigate. They saw, on an otherwise calm lake, what looked like a 10-metre-long black wave moving away from the boat.

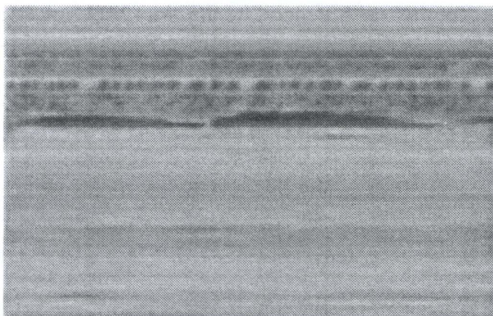
Once he regained his wits, Casorso ran for his camera.

His video starts off fuzzy and distorted from a digital zoom. But several minutes into the amateur tape, it clears and Casorso slowly pans from side to side, showing several long, snake-like figures moving across otherwise placid waters. The creatures move out of sight after about 10 minutes.

*"When they went under the houseboat, you could hear crashing. You could really feel the thrust and the force of their strength,"* Casorso says. *"I don't know if they were chasing something or what."*



ex 81



ex 11

Vermont's most famous sea serpent, "Champ," has some competition. "Memphre," the Lake Memphremagog monster, is now in the movies. A Montreal production company has created a one-hour satirical documentary that explores the myth surrounding Memphre. The film takes viewers on a humorous hunt for the legendary creature. It also explores a strange copyright battle involving the monster's name.

Lake Memphremagog is partially in Newport and partially in the Eastern Townships of Quebec. Filmmakers called on locals from both sides of the border to help with the project.

# Nessie News

\* A monster hunter has fled Loch Ness after his home was vandalised. Steve Feltham spent 13 years - longer than anyone else - looking for the beast and based himself in the 'Nessiemobile.' The former library van was trashed at Nessie HQ in the bankside community of Dores. Locals claim the 41-year-old has been the victim of a personal vendetta.

Steve was shocked to find the van - his home and place of work - was smashed up. The windows were broken during the early morning rampage and a police spokesman said: *'Our inquiries into this incident are continuing.'* The attack has shocked Dores.

One local said: *'He's been a bit of a lad. I don't think he'd deny he's had his fair share of girlfriends. It could be to do with that or perhaps it was just wanton vandalism.'* The *Sunday Mail* tracked Steve down and asked about his van being trashed. He said: *'I do not want to discuss it.'*

\* A Nessie-hunter with plans to collect tissue samples from the monster could face the wrath of the law. Supporters of the legendary creature have vowed to use wildlife legislation to halt American submariner Dan Taylor's plans to harpoon Nessie when he visits Loch Ness this spring. Mr Taylor (63), from Connecticut, is returning to the area to complete the job he started 35 years ago with a home-made submarine.

In 1969, his submarine *Viperfish* made 50 to 60 dives in Loch Ness but produced only a few unusual sonar readings. Now, with improved technology, Mr Taylor is to return to the loch with a new submarine called *Nessa*. It will be equipped with a harpoon which uses hollow-pointed spears to grab flesh from living creatures. Mr Taylor said he intended to use these to capture part of Nessie's hide for analysis.

But the plan has caused consternation in the Highlands. Gary Campbell, president of the Inverness based Official Loch Ness Monster Fan Club, said he was amazed at Mr Taylor's attitude. *"He thinks it's OK to take a home-made submarine onto one of Scotland's busiest waterways and shoot off spears at any living creature that appear on his sonar."* Mr Campbell said. *"We will be organising a proper defence of Nessie and informing the relevant authorities if Taylor carries out his plans."*

\* The waters of Loch Ness in which the monster is said to lurk are being bottled and sold around the world. Brian Ball, an Englishman who lives and works in Turriff, Aberdeenshire, has recently secured a contract to provide bottled water from the Highland loch to the US market. Ball has been selling bottles of the water on the eBay internet auction site for several months but now a tankful is on its way to Maryland, Ohio.

Ball, a department manager in a Turriff store, has made a deal with The Thistle Stop Shop, which specializes in Scottish and Celtic goods.

\* The spot famed worldwide for being the best place to catch a glimpse of Nessie is set to disappear. Historic Scotland have caused outrage by planting trees and bushes, which will block the view from the car park next to the visitor centre at Urquhart Castle. Furious locals say the move will slash the number of tourists to the area, as well as preventing eagle-eyed monster fans from capturing Nessie on film.

Gary Campbell, said: *"This is one of the most famous views in the world. Not only can you see the stunning castle, but you get the best views of the loch there. To hide it away like this is just insane - in fact it's monster madness."*



## A Pink Donation to the Dragon in Your Dreams

In October 2004, a story broke concerning a Canadian lake monster which is new to the editorial team at A&M. Jim Lynn, a Roman Catholic priest was looking out from his home on the shores of Great Slave Lake near Yellowknife when he saw an object trailing a small boat across the water. *"I got the goggles because it was moving fast and I was kind of curious as to what it was,"* said Lynn, 66. *"It was high, six to eight feet above the water and moving at an incredible speed. It was like the head of a dragon -- just coming out of the water at just a ferocious speed, just moving like crazy."*

Lynn watched as the creature, which looked green, hurtle behind an island, then disappear. He quickly called the Yellowknifer, a local newspaper, to place a advertisement asking the person on the lake that day to call him. *"I would think they would have felt the waves (from the creature),"* he said.



Chris Woodall, - a Yellowknifer columnist christened the beast "Ol' Slavery" and had written earlier in the summer that Great Slave Lake, with a maximum depth of 614 metres, hides some weird and wonderful creature. To his surprise, his phone soon started ringing with calls from people who claimed to have seen just such a thing. He gave the creature the name Ol'Slavery, after one of the aboriginal languages in the Northwest Territories. It's a fitting name, since the Dene have many stories about an unknown creature in the waters. When Antoine Michel was growing up in the traditional community of Lutsel K'e, about 200 kilometres east of Yellowknife, he was taught that a creature lived in the waters off Utsingi Point, about 80 kilometres southwest of the community. To appease the nameless creature, people boating by the point pass in silence and pay respect to the lake with tobacco offerings. *"We usually stop the motor and go around the point, paddle quietly,"* he said.

Years later, he saw the creature himself, on a calm moonlit night as he and his wife returned by boat from a caribou hunt. *"We seen a rock there. I thought it was a rock first time, there was seagulls around it,"* he said. *"I*

*Just turned away from it, I didn't want to hit it, (then) it just went down. I felt the waves, and then I just took off. I didn't take a look back."*

Boaters have seen strange creatures suddenly surfacing in the water in front of them. Lutsel K'e is near some of the deepest pockets in Great Slave Lake, a natural habitat for a beast of the depths.

A decade ago, Arctic Divers was on a deep-water body retrieval near Lutsel K'e when one of its divers saw a terrifying beast. *"It looked much like an alligator; but with a head like a pike,"* said Wayne Gzowski, the company's district manager. *"I really do believe that there's unknown marine life in a lot of these areas,"* he said, in places that have never before been explored by humans. According to aboriginal legend, the great Mackenzie River was created by a giant beaver. Rene Fumoleau, a retired Oblate priest and respected northern historian, remembers a Gwich'in elder telling him that a dragon now lives in the waters of Canada's biggest river. *"There are some places where the water never freezes in winter; and that is because there is that monster somewhere at the bottom of the river that stirs the waters,"* he said.

The Mackenzie flows out of Great Slave Lake; perhaps Ol'Slavery moves between haunts. Whatever the case, Archie Catholique, the chief of Lutsel K'e, is a believer. *"The elders were saying that this thing here doesn't bother anybody - it's not there to hurt anybody,"* he said.

But, he added, *"people see it."*





# MAN BEASTS

## Skunk ape fever

Lakeland resident Jennifer Ward went public in November, sharing her description and drawings of a hairy, human-shaped creature she claimed to have seen on the edge of the Green Swamp in Florida in August. Ward's tale has reverberated through cyberspace, with links to the original story and a subsequent *Orlando Sentinel* article showing up on such sites as Paranormal News, Dr. Mysterian and American Monsters.

Ward has drawn attention from groups that probe the existence of unconfirmed creatures, and she has appeared on three radio shows to discuss what she saw. *"I'm not real surprised people are interested in it,"* Ward says.

Ward, 30, has discussed her experience with radio hosts at stations in West Palm Beach, Iowa and Jacksonville. She was joined by Scott Marlowe, an instructor with the Winter Haven-based Pangea Institute, which offers classes in archaeology and other areas. The mother of two says disc jockeys at one station treated her story as comedy, and one at the Iowa station questioned her sanity. *"I'd probably think it was real funny, too, if I just heard about it,"* Ward says. *"I just said I can't help what I saw and I can't help what other people think, either."*

Marlowe says the disc jockeys seemed prepared to ridicule Ward but seemed impressed by the obvious sincerity in her voice. *"When Jennifer begins to talk, you can tell she's not fabricating this,"* Marlowe says. Ward was driving along Tom Moore Road north of Lakeland a few days after Hurricane Charley in August when she saw something in a ditch beside the road. She

describes a two-legged creature about eight feet tall and covered in dark fur with light rings around its eyes. She says it seemed to be foraging. Ward, who had her two daughters in her car, says she watched the creature for 30 seconds or so before driving on. She examined the scene later but found no conclusive evidence of any beast's presence.

Since Ward's story appeared, several neighbors have told her they have seen or heard something strange in the Green Swamp, and she has learned people living along Rock Ridge Road talk about a "gray ape." But none were willing to speak publicly about their experiences.

## Lights, camera, *Gigantopithecus*

Shooting on *"The Love Story in Shennongjia"*, starring Ke Lan and Geng Le, started in October in the Shennongjia Forest in central China's Hubei Province, China Radio International reported.

Ke Lan, otherwise known as Michelle, is a former host of Hong Kong's Phoenix television channel, but she quit to pursue a career in acting. The entire crew waited in the forest in the hope of catching a glimpse of a Yeti-like creature. It is reported that they saw three of the creatures, who soon disappeared into the forest.

## Billi don't be a hero

An elusive giant ape has been spotted in remote forests in central Africa, sparking theories that it could be a new species of primate - a finding that would be the most astonishing wildlife discovery in decades, *New Scientist* says. The mysterious creatures have been seen in forests around the towns of Bondo and Bili, in the far north of the Democratic Republic of Congo.

From the rare eyewitness sightings, bone discoveries and a video recording, the animals have large, black faces; are up to 2m tall; and weigh between 85-102kg. That would put them in



the size category of gorillas - but the region lies 500km from the edges of the known habitats of the western and eastern species of gorilla. The creature's face is gorilla-like and has a sagittal crest - a long bony ridge - that is typical of gorillas. But other aspects of the skull morphology are that of a chimpanzee, according to Colin Groves, an expert at the Australian National University in Canberra. As for behaviour, the apes make nests on the ground like gorillas, whereas chimpanzees prefer to make their homes in the trees. But, unlike gorillas, which hate water and prefer to build a new nest every night, these primates make their beds in swampy ground and reuse them night after night.

Faeces recovered from the nest sites indicated an animal with a diet rich in fruit, which is typical of chimps.



## Hey Kookie lend me your comb

A wild animal resembling a mix between a coyote and dog is leaping fences as tall as six feet to attack small animals in yards. At least two dogs have been killed, several more wounded and others have gone missing since the creature was first sighted west of Chino Avenue and Peyton Drive in Los Angeles. Those who have seen the animal say it attacked their dogs faster than they could scare it away. Ray Mailo, who lives on San Rafael Drive, said his five-year-old Yorkshire terrier, Max, survived an attack. *"It's been back twice already,"* Mailo said. *"It doesn't scare very easily. Everybody is getting scared because now you can't leave your grandchild or child in the back yard because the coyote will come and get them."* Mailo said the creature resembles a coyote but is about 20 pounds heavier.

about the creature to the City Council. They want the city to catch it so the bloodshed will end. Mayor Bill Kruger told them there is a coyote trapper in the city, but residents continue to see the animal at all times of the day.

*"Typically, coyotes don't attack during the day and jump over five feet,"* said Clifford Clark, whose dog was killed last month.

## The prettiest star

Police in Devon are investigating after seven sheep were found dead arranged in an unusual pattern on Dartmoor. The sheep were found on Sampford Spiney on Dartmoor with their necks broken and their bodies in a pattern sometimes associated with the occult. The pattern was similar to the shape of a star, or heptagram, a mystical symbol that the BBC were happy to point out is commonly used in occult ceremonies.

Chris Cole, a farmer who owned some of the sheep, said he first thought they were killed by a lightning strike. Mr Cole, one of three farmer who owned the animals, said he thought it was lightning because *"that's what happens when you find groups of animals dead like that"*. He said when he realised the animals were left in the seven-pointed shape: *"It's scared some people and worried them, me included. being this close to home. I don't really know what's happened. It's more what we are imagining happened here now."*



A half dozen residents brought their concerns

## Pull the udder one

Authorities in Texas are investigating a case of livestock mutilation. An Orange Grove man made the discovery. He said from the looks of it the two cows died under some bizarre circumstances. Cattle deaths are like those of any other animal, but every once in awhile cattle carcasses are found with strange cuts and all their organs removed.

James Lund and his nephew noticed a dead cow lying in a pasture while driving down a highway near Sandia. He didn't think much of it, but later on took a closer look and found two dead cattle. They weren't just dead - they were mutilated. *"We noticed they had some really, really strange cuts on them,"* said Lund. The animals eyes, ears, tongue, udders, and reproductive organs both were missing. Their carcasses had large circles carved out with surgical precision. *"It looked like it was cauterized as it was cut."* He said both animals were in the same position about 150 yards apart.

## The Blasphemy Goats

Eleven goats were found dead inside their wooden pen, which forms part of the petting zoo of the "Illusion" children's park on the premises of the Montehiedra Town Center in Rio Piedras (San Juan, Puerto Rico).

The discover was made by Fausto Radaelli, the person in charge of the petting zoo and its owner. According to the explanation given by Radaelli to journalists, he took 11 goats to the kiddie park last Monday because he was attempting to recreate a manger scene for the Christmas holiday.

He placed them in a wooden pen in the open air so they could spend the night there. But they were found lifeless on Wednesday morning. Three of the goats presented large bite marks, dismemberment and one of them had half of its body devoured; all of its internal organs,

excepting its stomach, were gone.

The rest of the goats had bite marks and fang marks on the rear of their bodies. The marks resembled the ones found on animals allegedly attacked by the infamous "Chupacabras".

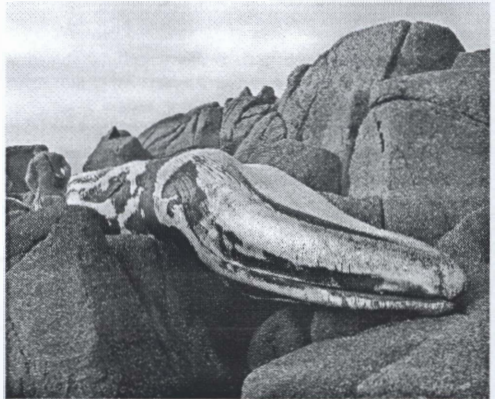
The goats had their necks twisted backward and rigor mortis had not set in 48 hours after their deaths.

## Whale meat again (yet again)

A 50ft (15m) fin whale washed up on a beach at Sennen Cove in Cornwall has "peculiar" damage, a wildlife expert has said. Dr Nick Tregenza of the Cornwall Wildlife Trust said the female had an irregular pattern of damage to its skin and excess of damage on its underside.

He said: *"It is also odd that it has come into the bay when most other drifting debris was being washed out."*

Kate Hockley, a volunteer for the Trust, was called out to record the Sennen Cove whale, one of only 10 to have been recorded since records began. Ms Hockley said: *"I was awe-struck by the whole experience. It was lying upside down on its back, its eyes were shut and it looked very beautiful in its own way."*



Photograph: Cornwall Wildlife Trust.



## Sighting of a mainland orang-utan circa 1957

Richard Freeman

Whilst traveling by train to Pembroke Dock to interview sea serpent witnesses I struck up a conversation with a man sitting next to me. His name was Les Minton. It transpired that he had done his national service in Malaya. He told me some amusing stories reminiscent of "It Ain't Half Hot Mum". These included a mad Sergeant Major who made a private climb a tree and two others cut it down whilst singing rock-a-by-baby and another (nicknamed Kitty) who was so drunk the privates had to hold him up whilst on parade.

I enquired about what kinds of animals he had seen. He told me that some soldiers had run over a 22-foot python once and that he had seen a wild orang-utan. At the latter I did a double take.

It seems that Les had been posted in North Malaya near the town of Epoh. They had been short staffed so there were only four men on the patrol. They were alerted to a crashing sound and saw a large animal moving through the trees.

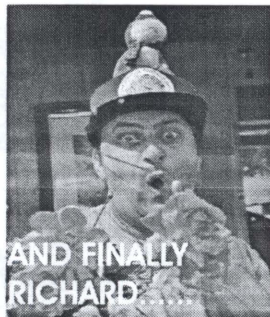
Les said it was 5.6 - 5.7 feet tall and powerfully built. It had long ginger hair.

It passed as close as 60 feet from the patrol but Les did not see the face. There Iban tracker that it was an orang-utan.

Les was genuinely surprised when I told him that orang-utans are only supposed to occur on Borneo and Sumatra. Hid did not know the scientific importance of what he had seen.

Mainland orang-utans supposedly died out 10,000 years ago. Fossils suggest that they were bigger than modern oranges, more the size of gorillas. It has been speculated that mainland oranges survived and are the basis for some ape-man legends, including the medium sized of the three types of yeti.

It makes you wonder what other encounters people have had but do not know the significance of.



## RETURN OF THE DEATH GNOMES

A secret underwater attraction that lured several divers to their deaths could have

returned, police say. The "gnome garden" complete with picket fence was removed from the bottom of Wastwater in the Lake District after several divers died a few years ago. It is thought they spent too much time at too great a depth while searching for the site of the ornaments. Wastwater is the deepest lake in the Lake District.

Now police divers say there is a rumour that the garden has returned, at a depth beyond which they are allowed.

PC Kenny McMahon, a member of the North West Police Underwater Search Unit, said the gnomes were well known among the diving community. He said: "Wastwater is quite clear at the bottom, but there's nothing to see. At a depth of about 48m, divers had taken gnomes down and put a picket fence around them. "But several years ago there were a number of fatalities and the Lake District National Park Authority asked us to get rid of them. "We went down there, put them in bags and removed the lot.

"But now there's a rumour about a new garden beyond the 50m depth limit.

"As police divers, we can't legally dive any deeper so, if it exists, the new garden could have been purposefully put out of our reach."

Richard's comment; "It's bad for your Elf"



In November I was contacted by a guy called Rob Chittem. Rob used to live in Hong Kong but now resides in the UK. In the early 1990's he made three trips to Sumatra and spent a total of three months on the island. He told me of a remarkable story he had heard of a gigantic snake inhabiting Lake Toba in the northern province of Aceh. The huge lake is the remnant of a super-volcano.

It is 87 km long, 31 km across and covers 1707 sq km. It was formed when the super-volcano erupted 75, 000 years ago. This was the most violent volcanic event in the last million years. It is thought that this lowered the global temperature by 3-5 degrees C, triggering the last ice age. It is a popular spot with tourists on account of its beauty.

When Rob was at the lake there was an awful disaster where a ferryboat was sunk and many people died. Lots of tourists claimed to have seen a gigantic snake in the water the day after the ferry sank, travelling along the same rout. The monster was seen by a French couple who told Rob's girlfriend that it was as long as the ferry they were on. It was some 20 meters (67 feet) long. The local Batak people believed the disaster was caused by vengeful lake spirits because a boat dumped a cargo of rotting onions in the water the day before. In fact the ferry had been badly overloaded. He was also told that some years before a tourist had been on a jet ski on the lake when a giant snake had reared up from the water and dragged the jet ski under.

Of course, Aceh was at the epicenter of the recent earthquake, and the resulting tsunami that was the worst disaster in almost thirty years. Amidst the unimaginable horror an amazing story has emerged involving another giant snake.

An Indonesian woman from the devastated province of Aceh had a remarkable story of survival. She saved two children by following a giant snake to navigate flood waters.

Riza, 26, a clothes seller from the village of Penayang, was helplessly dragged in raging currents after the giant tsunami hit.

Thousands of people were screaming hysterically and were panicking as they saw the water rise higher than their houses," she said.

As rising waters carried her out of her house, she was dragged towards her neighbour, who was struggling to hold on to her nine-year-old twins.

"Please save my twins, just let me go, as long as they're safe," Riza recalled the mother saying.

She grabbed the twins and placed them on her back. As she struggled through the torrent she saw a gigantic snake gliding to her left.

She followed in its wake until she found land. "Strangely I felt no fear," Riza said.

"Thank God, with the power I had left, I managed to go to higher ground and the water was only a meter high."

Riza said the twins were bruised and battered, but safe. There was no word on the fate of their mother.

Was this just a big reticulated python or something altogether stranger?

By  
Richard  
Freeman

## The Naga of Lake Toba





Every so often something happens to give mainstream science a good hard punch in the face and make it wake up. Unless you have been living in a cave on Mars for the past few months you will have heard of the latest such scientific haymaker.

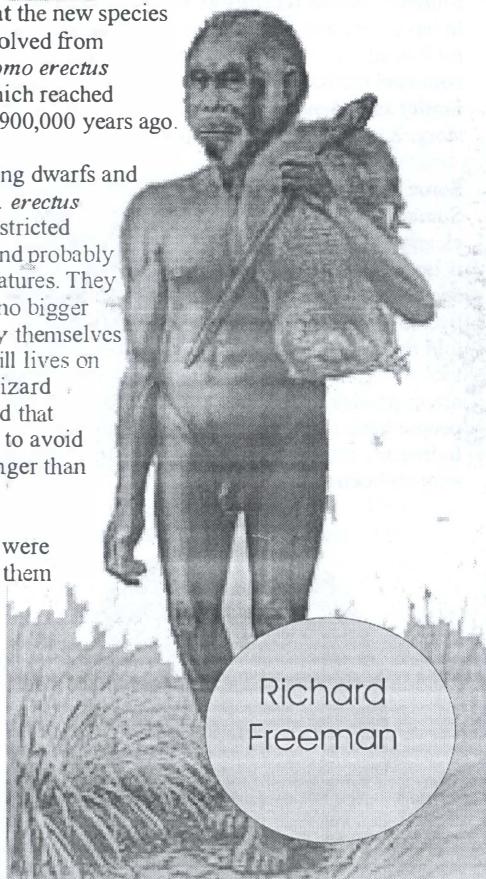
Australian scientists digging in limestone caves on the Indonesian island of Flores uncovered a totally new kind of human being. At a little over one metre tall and with a skull the size of a grapefruit, the tiny creature was dubbed *Homo floresiensis*. It is believed that the new species evolved from *Homo erectus* which reached

Indonesia around 900,000 years ago.

Island ecosystems do strange things to the fauna, creating dwarfs and giants. On a small landmass like Flores the ancestral *H. erectus* became tiny over the generations as an adaptation to restricted resources. The tiny people seem to have crafted tools and probably mastered fire. They shared their island with bizarre creatures. They may have hunted pigmy *Stegodon* elephants that were no bigger than cows as well as *Papagomys*, a dog-sized rodent. They themselves would have been hunted by the Komodo dragon that still lives on the island to this day as well as a second, even larger, lizard known from fragmentary remains. It has been suggested that *H. floresiensis* may have spent a lot of time in the trees to avoid these giant reptiles. They have arms proportionately longer than those of modern man.

Amazingly, these remains, a total of seven individuals, were sub fossils. The damp conditions of the cave preserved them very well. It is believed that *H. floresiensis* lived very recently. The remains have been radiocarbon dated to 18,000 years ago, the blink of an eye in evolutionary and geological terms. A massive volcanic eruption on the island 12,000 years ago may have wiped out the tiny people together with many of the other amazing species. Then again it might not have.

The islanders have a legend of a race of tiny hairy people they call *ebu gogo*, meaning "the grandmother that eats everything". They spoke in a murmuring

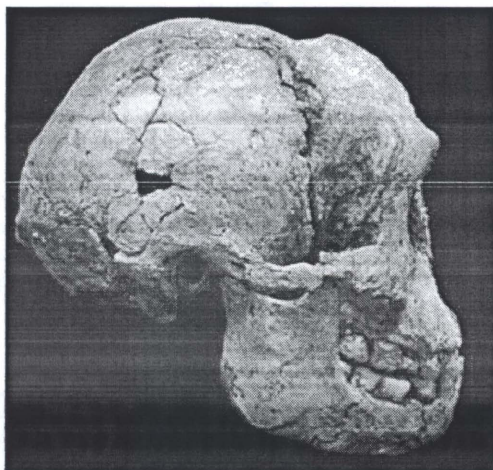


## For fear of little men

language and could imitate human speech. They entered human villages to steal food and crops, and as their name suggests they ate everything. One story tells of how a tribe of such tiny people stole a human child. The islanders retaliated by tracking the pigmies to their remote cave and smoking them to death with a fire.

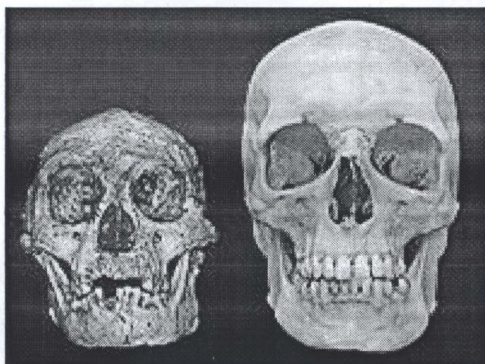
Richard Dawkins has dismissed such stories, with typical annoying arrogance, as merely folktales. But as recently as 1979 one man claims to have seen a number of ebu gogo burying one of their dead on a beach. He later claimed to have collected the bones and distributed them between family and friends. If there is any truth in this story, it would be an amazing find.

Some have sought to link *H. floresiensis* with the Sumatran orang-pendek, however this creature is clearly an ape rather than a human. Orang-pendek is larger and bulkier and aside from throwing sticks and stones does not use or make tools or fire. It is also solitary. However, Debby Martyr told me that, in Sumatra, they have legends of tool-using, tiny, hairy people quite distinct from orang-pendek. Legends and sightings of little people have been reported right throughout Indonesia, indicating that our diminutive cousin may still exist in remote areas.

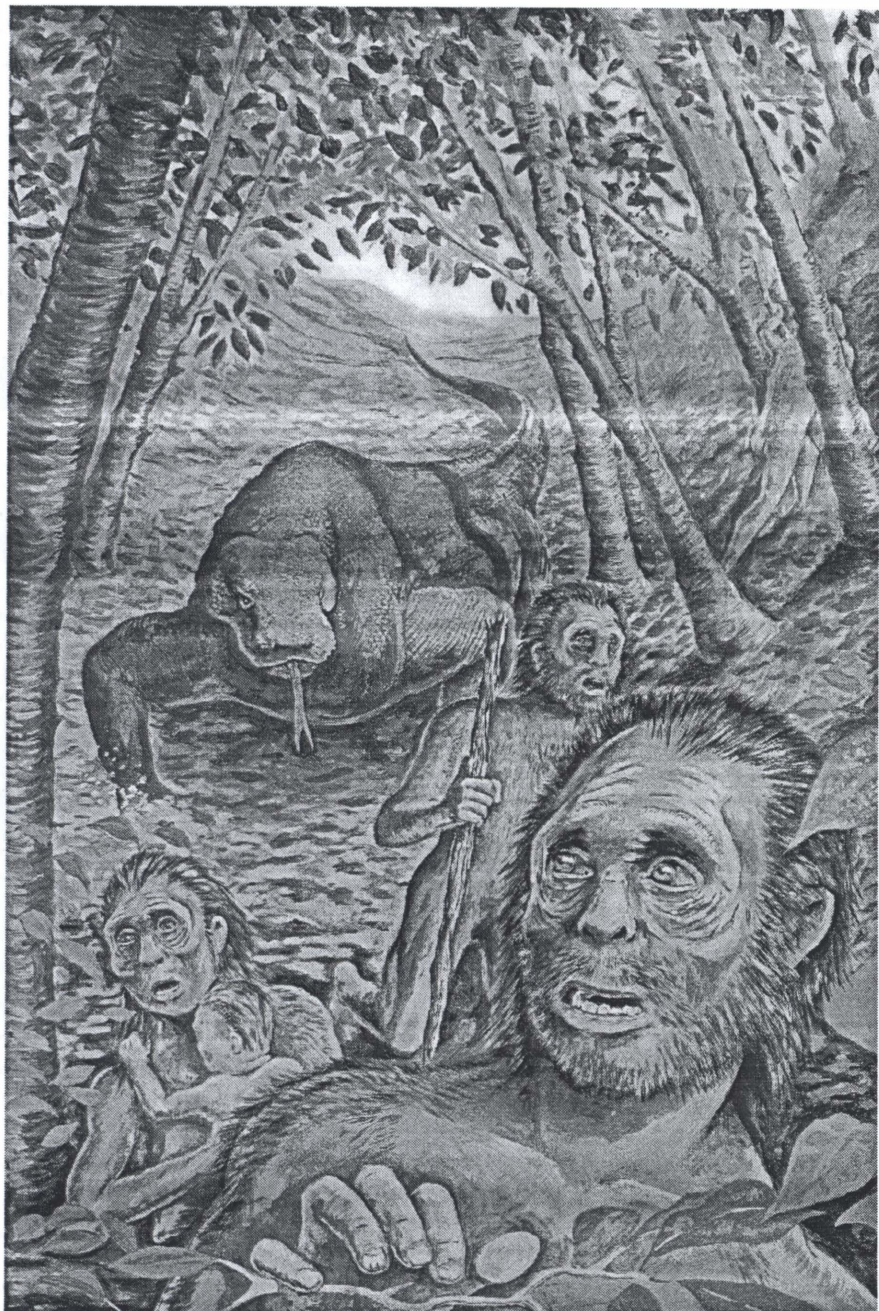


The skull of *Homo floresiensis* is tiny in comparison to that of a modern human. It is no larger than a grapefruit and has a cranial capacity smaller than that of a chimpanzee.

This raises the question of how these people achieved such complex behavior as tool creation, fire use, and organised hunting. Chimps use tools but do not fashion them. They hunt in groups, but using their teeth as weapons. They certainly do not use fire. It seems that brain size is not the key to intelligence; it is brain structure.







A family group of *Homo floresensis* flee from a giant monitor 18,000 years ago. These tiny people probably hid in trees to avoid these dragons.

Picture by Ant Wallis



# creature feature



## THE CFZ INVESTIGATES

### THE SEA FREAK OF PARTON

Richard Freeman

As a lad I used to love beach combing. Walking along the beach, particularly after a storm was like a natural history treasure hunt, seeing what the deep had disgorged. I found a swordfish's head once, and a John Dory. I always wanted to find a sea serpent but I never did.

Joan Singleton was walking along the beach at Parton, Cumbria last September. She was close to where Lowca Beck flows out to sea when she came upon a little monster, dead, and thrown up by the sea. It seemed to be some kind of aquatic chimera with a whale's tail, a seal's body, sharp teeth in a beak like mouth and flippers with claws. It was under five feet long. She took a picture of the odd beast and sent it to a local newspaper,

*Whitehaven News*. Soon the whole area had monster fever. Jack Southam, skipper of the Whitehaven sea angling charterboat Riptide, took a look at the snap and said: "I have never seen anything like this in all my years at sea." The town was abuzz with theories on what the diminutive creature could be. Whitehaven man Robert Beattie said he saw a similar creature a few weeks previously on the beach at Braystones. He said: "It had quite big ribs and a backbone and I knew it could not be a fish, I thought it was an alligator, maybe a pet that had been thrown into the sea."

Others had even stranger ideas. Dr Brian McCusker, of Newcastle University, rang to say when he has been fishing off the St Bees and Seascale coast he has noticed weird inbred beasts. He said some of them are "like something from the Alien film" about four or five feet long. Just what Dr McCusker is a doctor of remains a mystery but it's a safe bet that it is not zoology!



British Nuclear Fuels contacted the paper to assure them that the beast was not caused by Sellafield! A civil servant from Carlisle wrote in to say that he thought it was some kind of penguin - a very old one, that had lost its feathers. Needless to say, penguins are native to the southern hemisphere and are not known for their teeth. Charles Harvin thought it was a seal pup bloated by internal gasses with the skin removed by scavengers.

We at the CFZ were excited by the reports and contacted *Whitehaven News*. We asked that if the body was still around that they put it in a bin liner and courier it down to us for identification. We also asked them to e-mail us the pictures. Sadly, almost as soon as I looked at the







photos I knew what this was. It was a young harbour porpoise (*Phocoena phocoena*). Decay had stretched the skin around the head, making it look as if it had a more distinct neck. It had also shrivelled the flippers into "claws" and exposed the teeth in an eerie grin.

My diagnosis was echoed by CFZ Consultants Darren Naish, and Dr Charles Paxton, an ichthyologist. Many other experts came to the same conclusion. Mandy Holloway, a zoologist at the Natural History Museum in London said "*The teeth are more porpoisey than a seal because seals have big teeth, rather like a dog. These are peg-like teeth.*" The body was still where Joan Singleton had found it but it was now beginning to smell. Since we had identified it there was little point in expending cash to have it sent all the way down to Devon. The thought of receiving several stone of rancid cetacean through the post did not appeal.

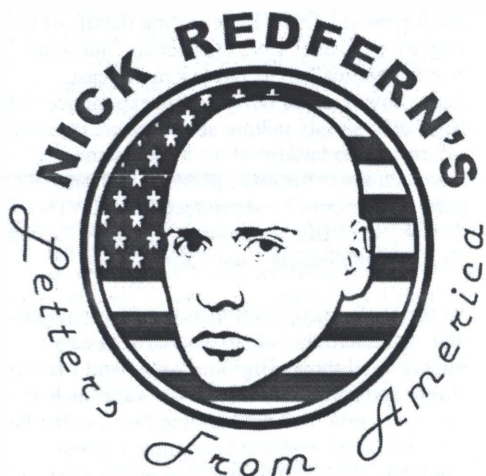
So the saga of the sea freak of Parton ended with disappointment; just like all those cases of decomposing basking sharks. Still, one day the inevitable will happen. Somewhere, someone will be walking along a beach and stumble over the carcass of a genuine sea serpent.

A number of known animals have been mistaken for sea serpents when washed up dead. These include the crested, naga-like oarfish and the rare beaked whales. A photo of one washed up in Santa Cruz in 1925 has long been reprinted as a "sea serpent" in many books. The most common culprits, however, are decomposing basking sharks. When the gill rakers and dorsal fin rot away, what is left looks like a long-necked creature with a small head. To the layman, this resembles the long extinct marine reptiles known as plesiosaurs.

On April 1st 1972 an English zoo stated that some of its keepers had found the carcass of a massive animal was found on the shores of Loch Ness. The half-ton beast was packed in ice and driven south for scientific examination. The incensed Scottish authorities intercepted the lorry carrying the monster at the Fourth Road Bridge. Of course it turned out to be a hoax. The monster was in fact an elephant seal from the zoo that had passed away.







Saturday October 23, 2004 is a day that I will remember for many years to come. It marked the date of the 4th Annual Conference of the Texas Bigfoot Research Center - see website at [www.texasbigfoot.com](http://www.texasbigfoot.com).

Previous TBRC conferences had always been highly successful with a wide range of lecturers speaking on equally varying topics. But this year's gig exceeded all expectations and had an audience attendance of 300-plus, with a whole array of local and national media people in attendance - including a TV production team from Australia filming for the "Animal X" series. Not only that: following the conference we undertook a tour of nearby Caddo Lake - the site of a variety of assorted Bigfoot activity and general weirdness.

Organized by the TBRC's Craig Woolheater and his dedicated staff (who can be contacted toll free at 877 529 5550), the conference was held at Jefferson High School and the event kicked off at 11.00 a.m. with a great line-up of speakers,

including:

(a) John Kirk III (a fellow Brit also transplanted across the Atlantic - but in John's case, to Canada), who is the President of the British Columbia Scientific Cryptozoology Club, and the author of the award-winning book, "In the Domain of the Lake Monsters;"

(b) Jimmy Chilcutt, latent fingerprint examiner for the Conroe Police Department;

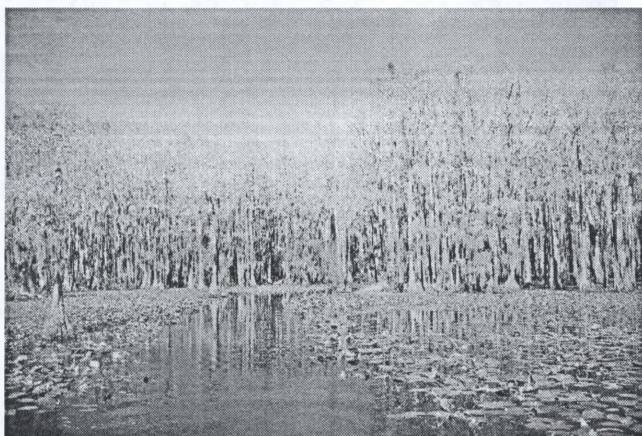
(c) Rick Noll, who has been investigating the subject of Bigfoot since 1969;

(d) Alton Higgins, a biology professor from Mid America Christian University in Oklahoma City;

(e) Sue Lindley, who discussed her very own Bigfoot sightings in Washington, California and Oregon;

(f) M.K. Davis, who revealed his latest findings and analyses of the famous and controversial Bigfoot film footage taken by Roger Patterson in 1967 (a subject that provoked a huge amount of controversy at the Friday night dinner that preceded the conference);

(g) Lee Murphy, author of the crypto-novels, "Where Legends Roam," and "Naitaka" (about r



the legendary lake monster, Ogopogo), who was available to sign copies of his books for fans;

(h) And acclaimed researcher and author Chester Moore of [www.cryptokeeper.com](http://www.cryptokeeper.com), who was a late addition and who delivered a great lecture that revealed the sheer scale of his knowledge on this elusive beast.

(i) And then there was Scott Herriott...

Scott was a stand-up comedian for 11 years and worked at Tech TV for three and a half years as host of *"Internet Tonight"* and as a contributor to *"The Screen Savers."* At the Friday night dinner that preceded the conference, Scott revealed that he had grave doubts about the authenticity of the so-called Patterson film of 1967 that reputedly shows a Bigfoot; but he was in little doubt that "something" was indeed lurking within the deep forests of the Pacific Northwest. Indeed, he

reinforced this belief by revealing details of his very own October 1992 close encounter with North America's most famous man-beast. Scott, however, did not limit his experience with Bigfoot to simply talking about the creature and informing the faithful of his theories and recollections of his own, personal sighting. He has gone a step further and produced two DVDs on the subject of Bigfoot hunting – namely *"Journey Toward Squatchdom"* and *"Squatching."*

At the conference, Scott mercilessly promoted and negotiated the sale of his wares to eager buyers of all things Bigfoot-based. And I can state firmly and accurately that he did so in such an entrepreneurial and entertaining fashion that he would have no problem becoming a prime candidate for a leading position on the next series of Donald Trump's *"The Apprentice."* I had not had the opportunity to view either DVD prior to meeting Scott; but over a beer on the Friday night





back at the bed-and-breakfast I said to him that I would be very willing to review his DVDs for the "Phenomena" website. A beaming smile came over Scott's face. And, sure enough, shortly after returning home, I received a package in the mail...

Well, knowing that Scott had worked as a successful stand-up comedian and knowing that he also had a firm belief in the existence of Bigfoot, late one night after the sun had set over Dallas, I turned on the DVD player, sat back in my chair and wondered how Scott's belief in the phenomenon would blend with his love of humor and the world of the absurd. Would Scott's comedic background eclipse the facts? Would his product turn out to be nothing more than a devastatingly humorous demolition of Bigfoot witnesses and investigators? Well, read on...

Both are monumentally funny – but not in a cruel sense. I could review both titles separately, but felt that a combined review of both would be easier. Essentially, they see Scott and a variety of buddies, work colleagues, and family members running around forests, drinking beer, visiting the locations of alleged Bigfoot encounters, and always having a good time – but also uncovering some genuinely intriguing data, meeting credible eyewitnesses, and securing friend-of-a-friend style reports from both down-to-earth characters and the occasional - and inevitably - amusing oddball. And there's nothing wrong with that.

My personal experience - based upon my own observations - is that many investigators of unsolved mysteries such as Bigfoot are openly hostile towards anything that (even in an affectionate way) pokes fun at their subject. Similarly, having been involved in the UFO research community for many years, I can safely say that while there are a lot of great people within that field, too, there are a lot of truly humorless individuals, also. But, if like me you enjoy a good laugh and want to be entertained at the same time as actually learning something, you will definitely want to obtain copies of both

DVDs. And even if in your world "Humour + Bigfoot = Bad Thing," you should still invest in Scott's documentaries.

Both productions have a fun, "road-trip" feel to them and Scott has a dry and cutting sense of humour. Try and imagine a comedic episode of "*The X-Files*" intertwined with a slightly less intense version of "*Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas*," all wrapped up in an adventure in search of the unknown with your best mates and a lot of beer, and you'll get the picture.

The films work well on another level, too, because the people that Scott interviews are such an eclectic, entertaining and unusual bunch that both films are as much about the Bigfoot mystery as they are about the people that see the creatures, those of us that look for them, and the whole culture that surrounds the subject.

To his credit, Scott steers clear of really going into an in-depth, case-by-case analysis (in a particularly amusing scene, he decides to avoid a multi-mile trek through the woods to the scene of the Patterson filming), but instead delivers a unique slice of Americana in a fashion that few have successfully achieved. Always fun – and frequently hilariously so, certainly informative and thought provoking, and produced by (and starring) someone with a passion and a great affection for his subject matter, both DVDs are, in my opinion, essential viewing. And you also get to meet Scott's girlfriend, mother, dad, and his pet dog – the latter playing an integral and unique role in Scott's attempts to utilize high tech camera wizardry in his search for Sasquatch.

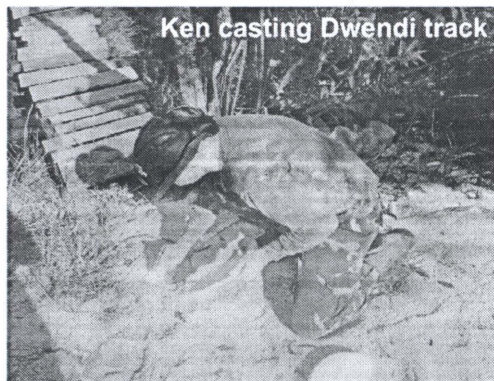
If after all this you are interested in obtaining a copy of this unique material, you can do so by contacting the man himself at:

<http://www.squatching.com>

You won't regret it.

# Seeking the Man Beasts of Belize

Nestled below Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula rests the tiny Central American nation of Belize, formerly known as British Honduras. It remains a largely unpopulated country, comprised of mountains and neo-tropical jungles that are



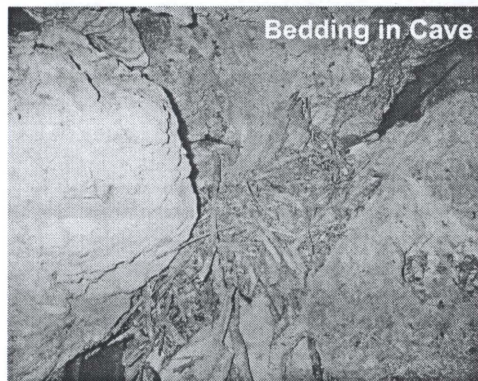
Ken casting Dwendi track

interspersed with waterfalls, Mayan ruins and extensive cave systems. It is also the apparent home of two different types of mystery hominoids, known as the Dwendi and the Sisemite respectively. Previous researchers including Ivan Sanderson, Marc E.W. Miller and Mark Sanbourne have visited Belize and written of its potential to harbor undiscovered primates, but not within the past decade.

Since it is a relatively short flight from my home in Texas, my wife Lori and I ventured down this past December. We journeyed to the Mountain Pine Ridge at the edge of the Maya Mountains, in order to undertake our own investigation. We were quite fortunate to obtain as our guide Honorio Mai, whose great uncle discovered the famous ruins of Caracol in the jungle. Mai is also

one of only a few men who have crossed the notorious Rapaculo pass armed with only a machete. Honorio immediately shocked me by telling me that his sister had, in fact been kidnapped by a Dwendi at the age of two. He claims that she was playing near the forest when she began to point and shout, "*Look at that boy!*" Apparently, no one but the child was able to see the small, mysterious being. Soon afterwards, the young girl vanished, only to be found later sleeping next to a strange piece of cloth. When the material was taken as a bad omen and burned, Honorio's other infant sister died suddenly for no apparent reason. It seems that the Dwendi (Spanish for goblin) often takes on supernatural characteristics in Belizean culture. They are often reputed to wear large hats or palm leaves on their heads and also to possess machetes or practice magic. However, there are still good sightings of little, hairy men on record.

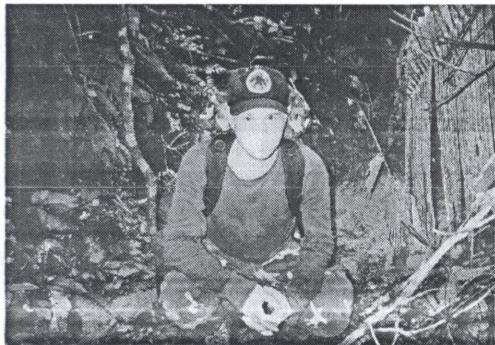
Ivan Sanderson wrote of a junior forestry officer and other witnesses who described the Dwendis as standing a meter and a half tall, with short fur like a dog and flat, yellowish faces. Richard



Bedding in Cave

Ken Gerhard





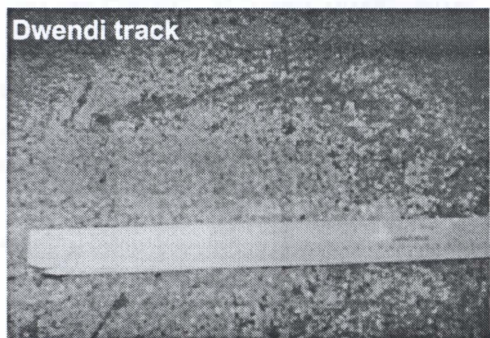
Freeman informs me that they are said to be nocturnal with thick calves and that they make a sound like a baby crying. A Belizian newspaper article from 1944, tells of a government worker who sighted two wild, little people in the jungle. Author John Green has referenced two separate incidents where small, hairy hominoids were allegedly shot in Central America, near the start of the twentieth century. In more recent years, zoologist Alan Rabinowitz wrote that he saw a tiny, manlike form at the edge of the Cockscomb forest.

There are several types of what Sanderson has labeled the proto-pygmy, living in sub-tropical regions around the globe. They include the Didi and Shiru of South America, the Agogwe and Sehite of Africa, the Teh-Ima (little Yeti) and the Orang pendek, Batutut and Mawa of Indonesia and Malaysia. Most relevant is the recent

discovery of a meter-high hominoid named *Homo floresensis*, which lived a mere twelve thousand years ago on the Indonesian island of Flores. Not surprisingly, the natives of Flores also have modern traditions of little, hairy humanoids known as the Ebu Gogo. It is also most interesting to note the vast similarities in proto-pygmy reports worldwide. They are almost always described as being under a meter and a half tall with short, red or brown fur and a somewhat human-looking face. These proto-pygmy may have evolved from *Homo erectus* and, coincidentally, the first controversial New World *erectus* remains were unearthed in Mexico this past year.



Our guide led us through the Chiquibul jungle surrounding Caracol, where one of his sons had once been attacked by an unseen stone thrower (presumably a Dwendi). This incident brings to mind the attack on a worker at the Mexican ruins of Mayapan by an alleged member of the Alux in 1977, as recorded by Loren Coleman. These strange freakish 'dwarves' with pot bellies are revered throughout Maya art, so perhaps there is a connection. Other forest beings that are recognized by the superstitious Maya include Ixtaba, a shape shifting enchantress with the feet of a chicken and Cadejo, an invisible spirit that is heard but never seen. Although we did not find any Dwendis in the Chiquibul, we did manage to locate a family of endangered, black howler





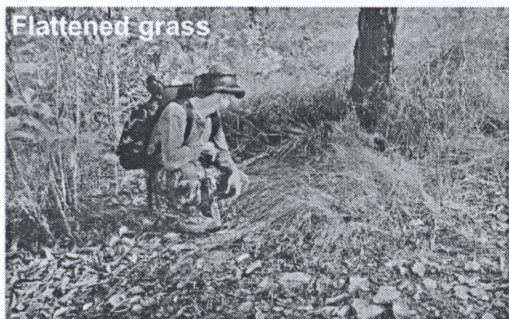
monkeys, which proves that large primates can exist there.

In the Cockscomb Jaguar Sanctuary to the south, we spoke with caretakers Ignacio Pop and Manuel, who both confirmed that the calls of the towering Sisemite could still be heard down in the Blue Creek area. Manuel insisted that his grandmother had heard one, years ago and was always very frightened afterwards. She said it had sounded like a man yelling, but much louder. The workers also recounted how an enormous, humanlike track had been found less than two years ago on a nearby shrimp farm. They thought that its big toe may have been pointing backwards. Dr. John Napier once remarked how wild man tracks are frequently described as looking backwards by the natives of primitive countries. This is also a common belief among Belizeans regarding the Sisemite. It has been suggested by some cryptozoologists that this could actually indicate the presence of giant prehistoric sloths, whose feet curved inward. There is also a widespread knowledge in Belize that both the Sisemite and Dwendí have only four fingers. In local folklore, this is the source of quite a bit of friction between monster and man. Thus, it appears that other than slight morphological differences, the Sisemite is



regarded much like the Sasquatch. At one point in the Cockscomb, we heard a loud crash emanate from deep in the brush, when I knocked on some wood. But it could have easily been a Baird's tapir, a large herbivore which can weigh over four hundred pounds.

Back at Mountain Pine Ridge, I was most fortunate to come upon two separate sets of humanoid tracks in a remote region where the locals assured me they never went barefoot, due to scorpions and snakes. The first track was tiny ( $16 \frac{1}{2}$  cm x  $7 \frac{1}{2}$  cm) and singly set in white gravel with a distinctly pointy heel. Two larger ( $23 \frac{1}{2}$  cm x  $11 \frac{1}{2}$  cm) tracks were found twenty meters away in red clay. Later, another pair of tracks was discovered in a sandy creek bed nearby. I was able to make plaster casts of two of them, though there is not a great deal of definition in either one. Regardless, unexplored Belize, with its dense jungles and numerous caves, undoubtedly has the potential to harbour elusive man beasts. I look forward to returning there for some intensive research in the coming year.





# creature feature

THE CFZ INVESTIGATES



By Richard Freeman

In the spring of 2003, cryptozoological newsgroups received a report of a sea-serpent seen in the river Cleddau off Pembroke Dock in Wales. The reports spoke of a creature with a long row of humps or loops much like the type of sea-serpent that Bernard Heuvelmans christened "The Many Humped".

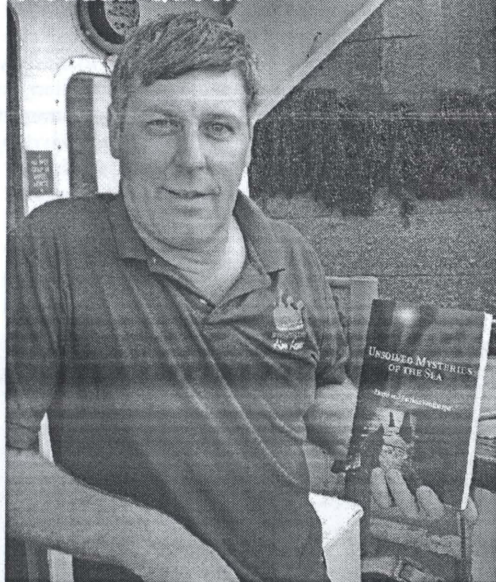
In the July of 2004 I travelled to Pembroke Dock to interview the witnesses. What I found was a case of 'Chinese Whispers', and a story far more interesting than I had ever anticipated.

It was 1 p.m on March 5th 2003. Lesley John, the barmaid at the Shipwright Inn on Front Street was pouring a pint when she looked out onto the river and saw something strange. "It was a big black fin moving slowly through the water and drawing ripples after it" The landlord - David Crew -and three regulars rushed out to get a closer look.

One man - Peter Thomas - was having a meal by



Alun Lewis, Captain of the Cleddau Queen



the window at the time.

*"I saw a diamond-shaped, snake-like head lifted a couple of feet out of the water. It was gliding along smoothly without moving side to side or up and down. It swum against the tide and caused turbulence. I love the river. I spend most weekends on it; I've never seen anything like this before."*

David Crew added, "It moved smoothly, and I felt that it had limbs below the surface that it propelled itself with. A car ferry goes across this part of the river regularly. The monster was about five times as long as a car".

As well as the people in the pub, there was a crowd milling about outside all of whom saw the monster. A few days later a photograph was

## EXCLUSIVE: the Welsh Sea Serpent



anonymously dropped into the pub. It shows a long, dark form in the water, visible between the old sea fort and the dock wall. In the foreground is the beach and a long outcropping of rocks. By using the outcropping as a frame of reference I estimated the object in the photograph to be sixty feet long. It does not resemble the description that did the rounds on the internet - the many humped animal. David Crew says: *"It didn't look anything like the classic 'nessie' with the row of humps or the long neck".* David, Lesley and Peter say that the photo exactly matches what they saw.

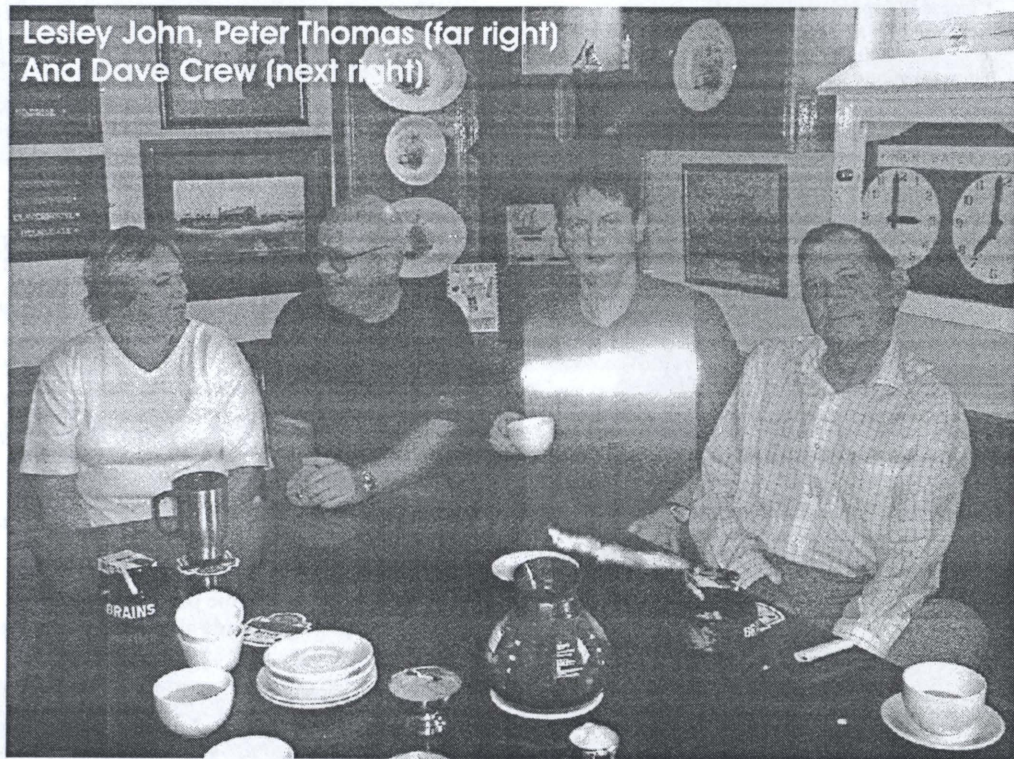
The witness descriptions sound very different from the internet descriptions as well. It had a largish head on a relatively short neck. It more closely resembles the type of sea-monster Heuvelmans calls 'The Marine Saurian'.

Alun Lewis runs a dive-boat called the *Cleddau Queen*. Pembroke Dock is the world's second deepest natural harbour. The waters are far warmer than they should be at this latitude, and attract marine life usually found further south. Ergo, it is popular with divers. Alun has his own idea about the monster:

*"A couple of weeks after the sighting, I saw a MoD ship a few miles down river.." (Pembroke Dock is nine miles inland from the sea) .. "A number of big Chinook helicopters were coming and going from it. One of them had a mini-submarine strapped to it. It was about 40 feet long. I think that this is what they saw."*

I put this to the witnesses, but they were adamant that what they had seen was a living creature.

Lesley John, Peter Thomas (far right)  
And Dave Crew (next right)





Peter saw it raise its head up.

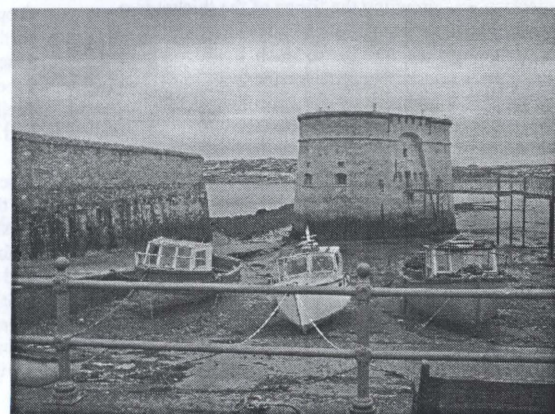
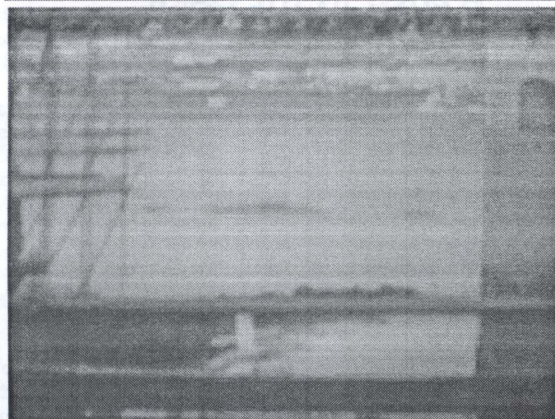
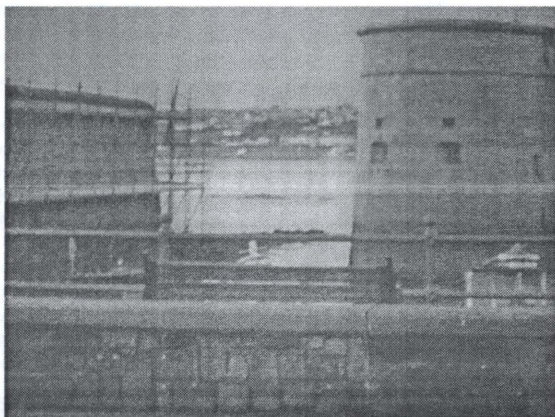
If the Pembroke Dock monster *is* an actual animal, what could it be?

Heuvelmans postulated that the 'Marine Saurian' was a type of giant, sea-going reptile, possibly a descendant of the mososaurs (a group of vast aquatic lizards), or the thalattasuchian crocodiles - sea dwelling reptiles of the Mesozoic era. Unlike the popular plesiosaur theory, this idea involves animals with close living relatives - varanid lizards, and modern crocodiles respectively.

Quite how the Pembroke Dock monster was transformed into a long-necked, humped animal by the media is unclear. Perhaps it was something to do with preconceptions about what a sea-serpent should look like. Sadly, the negatives of the photo were never sent to David and his friends, so once again we are left with a fascinating picture, and some compelling eyewitness accounts, but no hard evidence. I think the people of this sleepy little Welsh town *did* see something strange in the waters of the Cleddau, but as is mostly the case in cryptozoology I came away with more questions than answers.

If you are ever in Pembroke Dock, do pop into the Shipwright Inn. They have kept the photo and you can examine it for yourself. The three main witnesses are in there most nights, and the steak pie is to die for.

The two upper pictures reproduced here were taken from the original shot at differing magnifications to illustrate the scene. The bottom shot was taken by me to give a better view of the area. RF



# A DAY IN THE LIFE OF KENT BIG CAT RESEARCH

*By Neil Arnold*

## A SHOT IN THE DARK

In the darkness there was a movement, something several hundred yards away but a shadowy presence on the edge of the blazing torch beam. It seemed to move so slowly by the wire fence, overshadowed by the gloom of the small pocket of trees.

We had sat watching the fields for more than two hours. Nothing had stirred in the brisk breeze under the stars. This movement however was unusual, possibly human form, ghost-like, but in an area where there had been sightings of a Lynx, a Black Leopard and also an unidentified beige-coloured felid. Was the glint in the torch light a reflective eye? Maybe. Maybe not.

We were unsure of how to act. We'd been standing near bushes staring across an open field but the object of our attention was prowling the fringe of the thicket two-hundred yards away, an inhospitable stretch of wood protected by a patch of dense brush, thorn and thicket that hides a winding, five-foot wide low stream steeped by slippery mud banks.

We made our move, intrigued by the presence so we steadily marched across the open field unaware of the danger ahead, simply assuming that the night would simply offer a quirk or mere misinterpretation, or, if we were fortunate, an elusive glimpse of local fauna, whether fox or, hopefully, a large cat of some sort.

So, we came to the area of three-foot high bracken and bramble and decided to worm our way around the side, taking us slightly away from our concern which may have now disappeared into the night, but it was the

safest best. Within two minutes we were staring up at the imposing wood, an ominous shadow of reaching trees grasping at the black sky. There was a deadly silence.

In my right pocket was my digital camera, in my left hand a blazing torch. There was no way we could've made it this far in pitch darkness even under the glare of a winking Moon occasionally caressed by sweeping grey clouds.

We were faced with a tricky assault course of wilderness. Typical of North Kent's marshes and uneven fields. Ahead of us ran the quiet stream, it separated us from the wood. We knew it would take a further five minutes of lumbering to reach the stream. Quietly we set off, our feet hesitantly stepping down unto unseen ground. And then the snap of my right ankle. The sick feeling in my stomach, the flash of worry for my expensive camera, damaged by my fall down the divot, and the weird rush of falling in the darkness.

I was straight back on my feet. It was a sprain, thankfully, but I could hardly put any weight onto the foot. My friend was already up ahead, several metres away, keen not to lose our quarry in the darkness. The pain was excruciating, but we were neither here nor there, in some kind of rural limbo. We knew that at least if we continued and found nothing we could go on home, but if we did find something, like a sighting of a large cat, it would have been worth the pain of the fall.

We reached the stream like two characters from 'Lord Of The Rings', one a limping wreck, the other a frosted man of determination. We knew we'd have to jump it, cameras and all, with the risk of sliding into the water, dropping expensive equipment or damaging my ankle further. Yet, we had no choice. My friend leapt with ease, however, it made me feel none the more confident. I took a breath, the excitement of spying something fuelled me and drove me on and the final leap wasn't as bad as the surprise we were about to encounter.

Once on the other side of the stream we were confronted by the wood and the orchard. Our torches were off. It was black. This was the same wood where a year or so before we'd found pigeon carcasses eerily stacked up, and had heard a terrifying scream emerge from the trees. The sound of no fox. It was the same area of wood where we had been watched by some 'thing', some 'thing' that padded a few feet in the darkness and then moved no more. It was strange.



A small wire fence was the only barrier keeping us from entering the wood. We slinked through the fence and softly tip-toed into the wood, hoping to determine a route that the visitor had taken. Around us in the darkness there were the weird shadows of fallen trees, the creepy hanging vines reaching for our heads and the soft ground underfoot. We strode on, myself less convincingly, at least fifty or sixty-feet into the blackness, finding an assuring path of grass that circled the dense inner core of the thicket. And then BANG! The shot went off, the lights came on and were in some kind of surreal game. The bullet crashed into the ground a few feet from my right, throbbing foot, and pigeon in a state of nocturnal slumber had fluttered maniacally into the sky, screams and the rage of feathers through the leafy sky. A growling rev of an engine around thirty-feet away, a spotlight centred upon us two weary travellers and the fear of being the hunted.

My friend turned and ran, but not the way from whence we'd come but in a straight line. In a split second I realised in horror that the only possible escape was literally into thick bramble, because suddenly there were hunters. Fleeting shadows, some may have been in the area we'd come from, there were most definitely some up ahead, one driving a jeep up and down an unseen pathway, a person on the back shining a huge spotlight at us.

We were like frightened rabbits. And my friend had reacted quickly, simply calling, "Run!". I followed, without ever really seeing him.

We crashed through the wire fence, reached a wide part of stream and jumped, for what we believed in our paranoid states, was for the safety of our lives. My friend was a shadow twenty-feet ahead. He'd cleared the stream and his jeans were now met by the grasping claws of the thorn field. I was in full, disfigured leap. Crashing into the side of the bank face down. My ankle screaming, my heart thumping and my mind so aware of the engine roar, the shots ringing out, the faint murmur of voices and sheer horror of being chased by unknown persons. They knew the dark. We didn't.

I got to my feet, conscious of my camera in my pocket, the weight of my large torch and the tingling of my hands possibly caused by nettles. I ran full pelt at the brambles, the thorns tearing at my skin even through tough trousers. Thistles biting at my ankles, treading water and quicksand at the same time. I couldn't put the torch on because surely they would see the field become illuminated.

"Come on!" my friend yelled, it was just another rising noise in a cauldron of confusion.

Somehow, after what seemed like an eternity, we reached a hedgerow of some familiarity. We scrambled to the darkness, deciding to glare back at where we'd been. There was a bizarre silence now. The wood was probably bereft of its rabbits, foxes and bird life now and the pursuers had sunk back into the shadows like ghosts. We prayed they were not still following behind, but, like us, they'd have to be creeping in the darkness. Or, they'd taken to their trucks and hit the road, either hoping to encounter a limping human on the dark roads, or they'd gone.

We never saw them again. However, contacts of ours had. Pursued by the spotlight through the night. Hunted by the roar of the engine and the shots of the gun. But these were not warning shots fired at the stars from people lamping. We were in their sights.

It was an experience to say the least, one which caused me to ponder research like this. I was left with stung hands, a bloody face, a bruised ankle, but more importantly, a question mark as to whether all this was worth it, because most researchers feel that sitting behind a PC all day is 'research' but it isn't.

Some wouldn't even have the patience to spend a night in a cold field, hence their lack of evidence. But on this occasion, I felt that curiosity may well have killed more than the cat!

*In 2004 KENT BIG CAT RESEARCH received a record number of 'big cat' reports from the general public, over 370. That's more than 100 up from the previous few years.*

*We investigated three reports of cats carcasses found on motorways, and once again hope to make the public aware of large felid populations in the county.*

*We believe that the government and other authorities are not interested in such sightings, and also believe that such populations should not be advertised in order for personal gain, such as wealth or fame.*

# Identifying the Beast of Gevaudan

By Paul Williams

Between 1764 and 1767 the harsh mountainous region of the Gevaudan in Southern France was terrorised by a mysterious beast which killed at least 96 people and injured many more. Parish records in various churches in the area only touch on the tragic story. It is likely that more deaths and injuries were not recorded.

Witnesses and surviving victims could not agree on the identity of the beast. It was described

alternately as a wolf, a werewolf (the phrase *loup-garou* refers to both werewolf and man-eating wolf), a lynx, a bear, a punishment sent by God and an unknown animal. None of these explanations, apart from the last, can fully account for the recorded behaviour of the beast which was demonstrably, and fortunately, unique.

The first hunter sent from the court of Louis XV to exterminate the beast described it as: "the size of a yearling calf, with a big head and a pointed nose, a long body more strongly built in the chest than in the hindquarters, the fur is reddish brown with a black strip four fingers wide down the back from head to tail, the latter being long and bushy, while the fur of the chest is greyish-white." This description is the base for all later attempts at zoological classification of the beast. It may have been exaggerated but was not wholly invented.

Nobody has yet provided a satisfactory solution to the mystery. Rothovius, writing in *Fate*, 1961, believed that a human maniac was responsible.





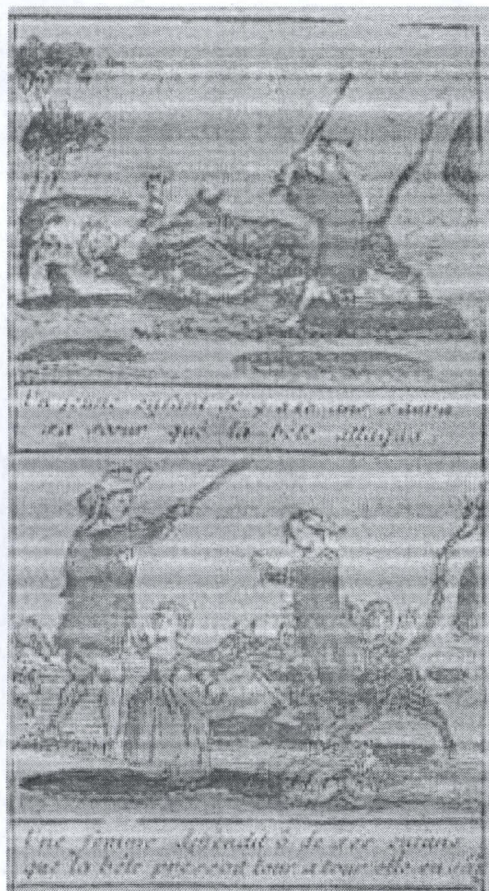


This is not as unbelievable as it sounds. It is possible that some of the werewolves executed in France during the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries were criminals clad in wolf skins. The belief that such disguise afforded supernatural qualities, still present in many cultures today, may well have survived and the disguise would have been effective when stealing livestock. However Rothovius is guilty of serious factual errors. He states that the third hunter sent by Louis (he does not mention the second) went directly to Central Auvergne where he killed a wolf and proclaimed this to be the beast. In fact Antoine de Beauterne was in the Gevaudan region for three months. He was sent by the king on 8th June 1765 and killed a wolf, which he and others believed was the beast, on 21 September. This animal was supposedly 1.81 metres long; it is unclear if this includes the tail, and 3.2 feet high. It weighed 139.85 pounds. A normal wolf weighs about half of this.

After the killing Antoine stayed in the area for around a month. There was then a brief gap before

the beast of Gevaudan began claiming more lives. Two years later another oversized wolf was shot, on 19 June 1767. This one weighed 117.26 pounds. After this there were no more ravages. Rothovius's second mistake was to state that the man who shot this second wolf, Jean Chastel, used a silver bullet. This is pure fantasy, erroneously linking the beast with twentieth century werewolf mythology. Nor did the wolf have vampire tendencies as Rothovius claims. Chastel has two roles in the story.

Prior to the killing of the first "beast" he, and



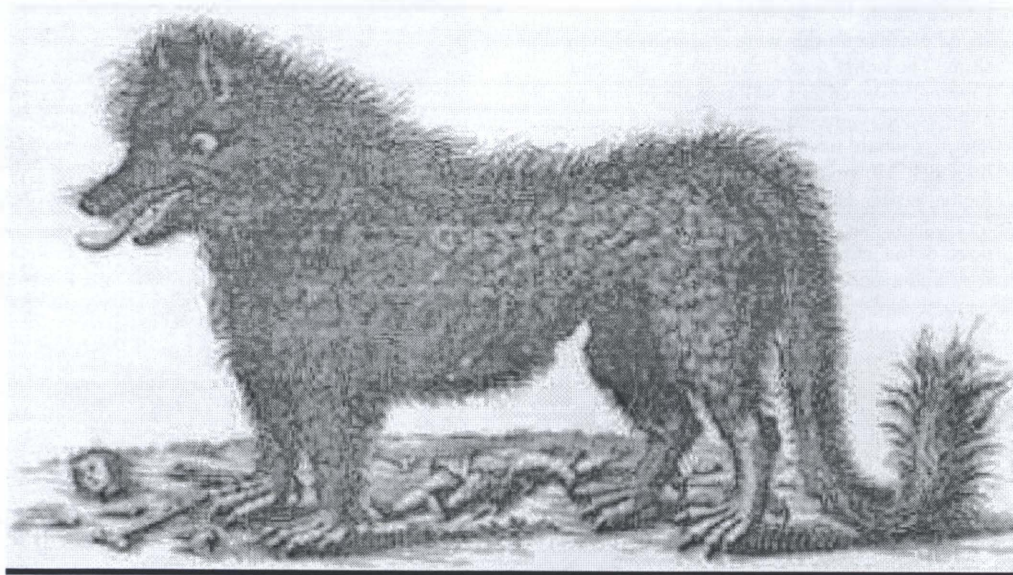
other members of his family, were imprisoned by Chastel for killing some guards. This would be insignificant except that the family were rumoured to be sorcerers, presumably of the sort who could cause abnormal behaviour in wolves.

Artistic impressions depict the wolf as a grotesque caricature, vaguely reminiscent of a pantomime horse. However, the "man dressed up" explanation is unlikely on two counts. Firstly, the earlier French werewolves whom he was supposedly imitating had no tails and the beast did have one. Secondly, and more importantly, a man cannot bite deep into another man's neck in front of witnesses without a weapon.

The conventional explanation that the beast was a normal wolf behaving abnormally possesses serious flaws. Firstly incidents of healthy wild wolves attacking people are incredibly rare. Rabid wolves will attack more frequently but a rabid beast would not have survived three years and none of the surviving victims were infected with rabies.

In the Gevaudan region, at this time, there existed an abundance of sheep, cattle, and other animals which usually form the staple ingredients of a wolf's diet. It is a pattern in predators that those who prey on humans do so either because their normal prey is unavailable or because they are too old or too weak to hunt it. The beast of Gevaudan was demonstrably agile and fit.

Many victims were shepherds and cowherds, mostly adolescent females, who were slain in front of their flocks or herds. No sane wolf would risk attacking a human - which it could not guarantee to kill - for food, when it could easily steal one of the animals and escape undetected. Since the beast was cunning enough to hide from searchers it did not suffer from insanity. The method of attack differs from that usually adopted by wolves. In general, they catch prey by giving chase not by preparing an ambush. The beast seemed to be waiting for, and preying on, humans. All those who survived said that it was not a normal wolf. They were familiar with wolves and had no reason to lie about their assailant.





The range covered by the beast was around 120 square miles. Given the high prey density in the area a normal wolf, or pack, would not have such a big territory. Also the attacks followed a peculiar sequence. There would be months without one followed by several in the space of a few days. Sometimes two people would die in quick succession and sometimes weeks would pass without fatalities. Wolves normally only eat when hungry. They don't consume one meal then immediately seek another. especially if they have to travel to get it. An Indian wolf which preyed on people a few years ago had an attack pattern of one every three days. A wolf feeding as irregularly as the beast of Gevaudan could not survive.

The beast was supposedly seen in different villages, some miles apart, on the same day. This, and the killing of two supposed beasts, suggest that there was more than one animal. Given the rarity of man-eating wolves the existence of two in the same place at the same time is improbable. There were several reports of man-eating wolves in other parts of France during this period but none have been verified.

On at least one occasion the beast was seen with a pregnant she-wolf. If this female was involved then she would surely have helped her mate in the attacks and in the consumption of prey. Yet when undisturbed the wolf ate its victims where they fell and did not take them away to share with others. It seems reasonable to conclude that it was acting alone. Since the Gevaudan beast attacked adults as well as children it must have been of considerable size. The Pleistocene wolf, *Canis dirus*, was much larger than its modern European counterpart. This is thought to have become extinct 8000 years ago. However if one survived there would have been more attacks prior to the Gevaudan incident and size is not necessarily an indication of aggression.

The six foot long Andes wolf, *Dascycon hagenbecki*, is the only known surviving wolf that might conceivably fit the description of the beast.

Since this has not been observed interacting with people in the wild its relationship with people is a matter for speculation. Yet France is so far from its normal habitat that it is hard to imagine one arriving there in the eighteenth century.

Perhaps hybrids were responsible. All wild canids can interbreed so crosses between dogs and wolves are not uncommon. Recent experiences in America show that hybrids can be more aggressive than either of the parenting species.

Wolves are often confused with hybrids and other canids and are blamed for their transgressions. Alternatively it is possible that the beast was not a canid but a large felid. Big cats, such as the leopard, kill their prey by biting the neck first just like the beast. They are also better at ambushing and, being able to climb trees, better placed to avoid pursuers. The last lynx in the Gevaudan was shot in 1875 but the lynx lacks a tail and can be discounted as the beast on the grounds of size and no history of aggression against people. A leopard is a more probable candidate. Allowing for exaggeration the descriptions of the beast fit, so does the behaviour and the size.

Ultimately the absence of a body prevents a precise identification. The beast of Gevaudan could have been a survivor from an earlier race of wolves, a large felid or a savage hybrid. The most interesting question however is why was this creature unique? What were the circumstances in France at that time which produced it and why have there been no comparable incidents before or since?

### Suggested Reading

- \* Pollard, J., *Wolves and Werewolves*. London, Hale, 1964.
- \* Rothovius, A. E., "Who or What was the Beast of Gevaudan?" *Fate*, September (1961), 32-37.
- \* Thompson, R. H., *Wolf Hunting in France in the Reign of Louis XV, the Beast of the Gevaudan*, Lewiston, Edwin Meller, 1991.

## Gilbert Pidcock's Two Headed Cow

Two-headed cows are occasionally born alive. What is more, occasionally, with veterinary intervention they survive. More often than not they die during or before birth, or kill the mother, by becoming jammed in the birth canal if a caesarean section is not available. Generally when they are born alive they are euthanased within days as being uneconomically viable and the possibility that they are suffering as a result of their deformities.

When they are born in modern times the bodies usually end up at the local veterinary school where various suggestions are put forward about how they came to be. One recent still-born calf with such a deformity was born at a farm within 5 miles of Three Mile Island, the American nuclear plant that had "an accident" in 1979. There had also been problems with the sheep in the previous year, and the farmer subsequently died of thyroid cancer, a cancer often associated with exposure to certain types of radiation. A calf with two heads born in Russia in early 2003 was explained by the Russian authorities to be a result of the lack of selenium and iodine in the soil locally.

In New Zealand another two headed calf, which died as a result of its mother not being able to deliver it, was explained as possibly being caused by the mother ingesting poisonous plants during pregnancy or an infection with Akabane virus (a mosquito-borne virus found in Australia and the

Far East).

Gilbert Pidcock, a man who had owned a travelling menagerie for some time, acquired a static menagerie at the Lyceum at some time prior to 1791. He subsequently acquired a second collection that was based at Exeter Change in the Strand. Both were established menageries

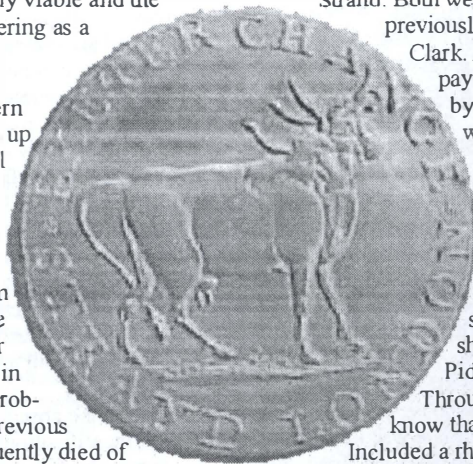
previously run by a man named Clark. Admission was by payment of a fee; a fee which by the standards of the time was quite expensive.

However the clientele were of sufficiently high status to justify regular advertisements in the Times and the establishment was later sold as a going concern shortly before Gilbert Pidcock's death in 1810.

Through the advertisements we know that animals exhibited by him included a rhinoceros ("or real unicorn"), kangaroo, zebra, a "Bengal Tyger" (sic), "a real Laughing Hyena", and many others.

It appears that in the collection at the Lyceum there was a two-headed cow. The London Chronicle of 29th January 1791 reports

"Now exhibiting at the Lyceum Strand. The surprising heifer with two heads. This very remarkable creature has two Heads, Four Horns, Four Ears, Four Nostrils, through each of which it breathes, &c. This truly wonderful Curiosity is the only one of its kind in Europe; and what is more



CHRIS MOISER



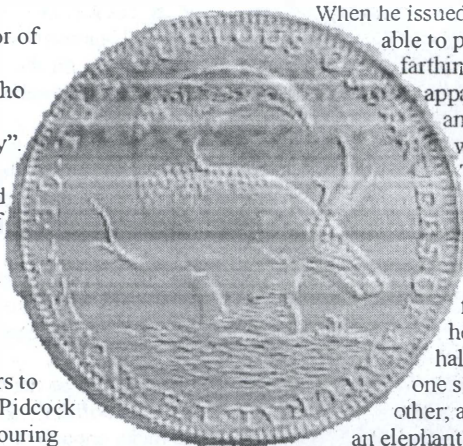
astonishing, it takes its Sustenance with both mouths at the same time, to the admiration of the Faculty and the Beholders in general; and it also is the opinion of John Hunter Esq., Professor of Anatomy, that it has two hearts. One of the Heads, together with the Horns, represents that of a bull, and the other a Cow. The height of the animal is thirteen hands, and each horn measures twenty-five inches long. Admittance One Shilling. N.B. Most money given for all sorts of foreign Beasts and Birds, if alive by G. Pidcock. A capital collection of Wild Beasts, with waggon, horses, &c, to be sold. Enquire as above".

"John Hunter Esq., Professor of Anatomy" was the Scottish Physiologist and Surgeon who later became known as the "founder of modern surgery". He too was a man of zoological interests, and had something of a collection of exotic animals at his Ears Court home. This collection included a Zebra, ostriches and a yak.

The two-headed cow appears to have gone on the road with Pidcock when he took a menagerie touring around the country again. Certainly in November 1796 he visited Exeter with a show which included three living elephants and the cow. The menagerie returned again in December before heading back to London through Yeovil, Sherborne and Shepton Mallet. It seems highly likely that in the mean-time it had visited Plymouth, and possibly some towns in Cornwall.

This animal has been illustrated, but not in the conventional way. It appears on farthing and halfpenny tokens that Gilbert Pidcock issued. Sometimes known as Conders, after the first person to catalogue them properly, these trade tokens were issued by many businesses. They originally came into being because Queen Elizabeth I felt that only gold or silver matched

the dignity of the throne. The country then effectively suffered a small change crisis until, in the mid-seventeenth century the Crown allowed the private issue of farthing tokens. Other denominations followed. Many businesses saw the opportunity to use them as an advertising medium as well as solving a change problem. By the eighteenth century the Crown was producing copper coinage, but the stimulus to the economy that occurred with the industrial revolution again led to a shortage of small coinage that the Royal Mint could not keep up with.



When he issued them Gilbert Pidcock was able to produce a number of different farthing and halfpenny tokens. He apparently had fifteen halfpenny and nine farthing dies cut with which to produce tokens. These he used freely to produce many different combinations of "heads and tails". A couple of the halfpennies and at least three farthings featured the two-headed cow. One of the halfpennies shows the cow on one side and a toucan on the other; another shows the cow with an elephant on the reverse. Other reverses may also exist. These tokens are now increasing in popularity with collectors, and depending upon condition may change hands at up to £ 70.00 each. The cataloguing of them has, to a limited extent, led to further interest in the menagerie that Pidcock owned, because of the animals illustrated on the tokens.

From the reports it appears that the two-headed cow was alive in January 1791 when it was described as a heifer, and was alive when it toured in 1796. We do not know when it died, or what happened to it when it did. The rarer of the menagerie animals were often stuffed or taken to John Hunter for dissection. As Hunter died in 1793 though this fate was unlikely to have befallen the two-headed heifer, although it could

of course have been dissected by one of his successors. No report of such examination survives.

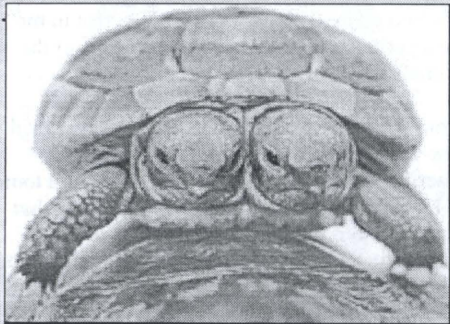
More likely it died either at Exeter Change or whilst travelling around the country. Its fate then was probably to be fed to the carnivores. Irrespective of whatever happened to it eventually this animal seems to have survived for in excess of six years without anything in the way of modern veterinary assistance.

## Tortology

A two-headed tortoise has come out of its shell in Dorset to find itself in the media spotlight.

The unusual case of a Mediterranean spur-thighed tortoise, born two months ago in an incubator, made the headlines in various papers. Owner John Jones, from Dorchester, who has 37 tortoises and has kept them for 55 years, said: *"I was really surprised - I had never seen anything like it. It is perfectly healthy and is running around with all the other tortoises. I think each head has its own little brain because they do try to move in different directions."*

Although it is an unusual case, it is not unique. In 2003 another two-headed tortoise was found in South Africa.



## CFZ PEOPLE

We are happy to be able to welcome Mark Martin back into the fold after an absence of a year and a bit. It's not been the same here at CFZ Towers without him, and we are especially grateful for his generous donation that arrived at a time that the CFZ were particularly skint.

Another big CFZ welcome has to go Oll Lewis, aka Shearluck, who joined up at the Unconvention and has been making his presence felt on the forum, as well as in the new CFZ area at Habbo Hotel - [www.habbohotel.co.uk](http://www.habbohotel.co.uk).

As I type this he is sitting on the CFZ sofa smiling inanely, and in the three days he has been dossing chez CFZ he has proved himself to be eminently suited for life on board.

Five years after their - errrm "interesting" foray into film production, the CFZ are now hitting the legitimate stage.

Those of you at the last Unconvention may have seen the *Foolish People* theatre group stall. Richard was lucky enough to see their excellent production, *Ruined Steel*, earlier this year. As it turns out, John Harrigan, creator of the group, is interested in cryptozoology! Foolish People's next project is a co-production with the CFZ.

An ark of six plays featuring six classic monsters is being written by John. Intitled *Dark Night of the Soul* they are to feature Richard Freeman as a narrator much like Rod Serling in the *Twilight Zone* with Jon Hare as his able assistant. Richard is writing notes for the plays and suggesting story themes. The six plays will feature dragons, basilisks, weretigers, vampires, the Wendigo, and little people. They are to be shown in London later in the year. See Foolish People's website [www.foolishpeople.org](http://www.foolishpeople.org) for more details.



# CFZ LOCH IN

## PART ONE:

*Almost 70 years after the event, details of a classic Loch Ness Monster sighting have come to light. Tony Healy and Paul Cropper report from Australia.*

By Jings, I've seen it!

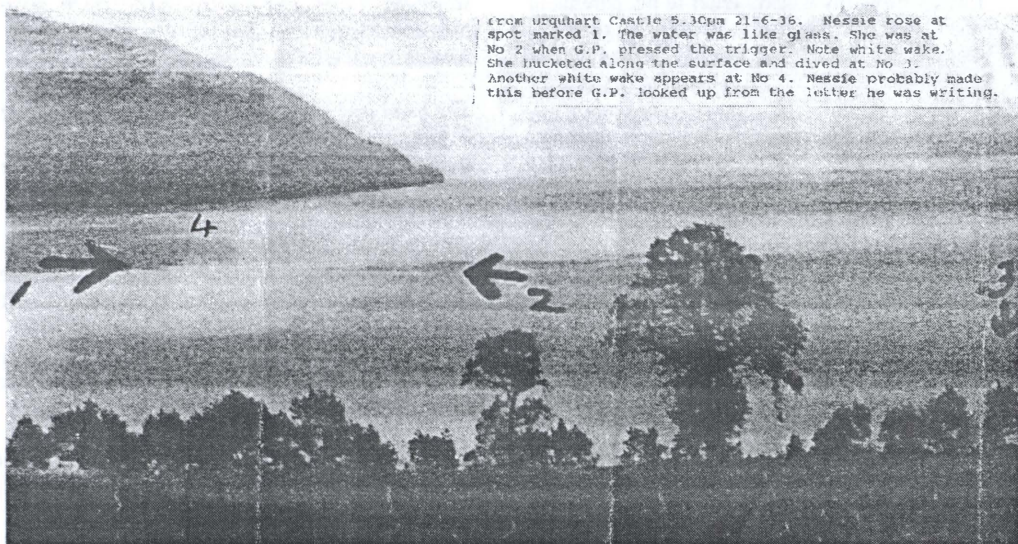
Good-humoured, gracious and enviably clear-minded at the age of 91, the prolific author, broadcaster, journalist, war veteran and preacher Revcrend Gordon Powell is one of Australia's best-known and most respected churchmen.

In the strange field of cryptozoology, where uncertainty is the name of the game, credibility of

eyewitnesses is crucially important. We were therefore delighted when Reverend Powell recently put his considerable reputation on the line to tell us of a day, 66 years ago, when the Loch Ness monster surfaced right in front of his startled eyes.

The paths of Christian and cryptid crossed at 5.30 p.m. on June 21 - the longest day of the year - in 1936, when the then 25 year old Gordon Powell was touring Scotland with two other Glasgow University students. Fortuitously, when the creature surfaced, the young man was poised, pen in hand, ready to record his immediate impressions.

"I was", he told us, "sitting on the bank about 50 yards above Urquhart Castle. It was an uncomfortably hot day, the sun was behind me, and the loch surface was like glass. Not only was





and the loch surface was like glass. Not only was it the Sabbath, but it was the six-monthly Communion Sabbath, a specially sacred day at that time in that part of Scotland. Consequently there was not a boat to be seen."

"I was writing my weekly letter to my parents in Australia, looked up, saw a ripple - and then Nessie broke the surface. I nearly pushed the pen through the paper!"

A transcript of his letter conveys the excitement:

*"Here we are parked on the bank*

*By Jings, I've seen it*

*I was just about to say that I was parked on the bank of Loch Ness writing this and waiting for the monster when the jolly thing showed up. From where I am you can see about 10 miles up the loch. The wind is ruffling the surface in patches but about 300 yards out [in Urquhart Bay] there was a great area as smooth as glass. Suddenly, in the middle of that, a ripple appeared and then something like a huge eel appeared..."*

What emerged was a small, smooth head on a neck about six feet long. The head was like that of a calf but without horns or ears.

*"It looked away and then straight towards me. I felt it was looking at me but I couldn't swear that I saw eyes. It looked ahead and then...my theory is that it spotted a school of salmon...it chased something, anyway.*

*The head and neck went under and at least three humps, possibly four; appeared and moved at tremendous speed towards the tip of the point on which the castle stands."*

*"It was very much alive and bucketed along the surface throwing up a lot of spray. I've sometimes likened it to a swimmer doing the butterfly stroke - one moment the shoulders heave upwards, then the rump: a bucking, vertical action. It was very large - roughly twice the size of a cow which was browsing on the shore below me."*

The smooth humps, all roughly the same size and shape, protruded a foot or two out of the water and were, like the head and neck, dark grey or



black in colour.

After the creature had covered two or three hundred yards, Gordon grabbed his camera and took a picture which thanks to the ever-vigilant Loch Ness gremlins shows an expanse of Urquhart Bay, what could be a long white wake and no monster.

Rev. Powell believes the creature must have submerged at the critical moment, but only briefly, because he then watched it proceed another 200 yards or so before submerging completely.

He regrets not taking a second photo, "*...but it was an old fashioned camera and I would have had to take my eyes off Nessie to watch the window.*"

Although the creature had been in sight for less than a minute his memory of it remains crystal clear: "I had 20/20 vision, visibility was perfect, with no mist or fog.

The sun was behind me and shone directly on Nessie and the spray she created. The head and neck as I first saw them were similar to the 'Surgeon's Photo', which we now know was a fake, but which was based on eyewitness reports".

Unknown to him at the time, three other people apparently saw Nessie in Urquhart Bay that day: "On Tuesday [June 23] I bought a newspaper in Crian Larich which reported two cyclists and a hairdresser seeing what I saw, at the same time."

Rev. Powell remarked that, back in 1936, many local people exhibited a great fear of the monster(s).

One young man to whom he mentioned his sighting "literally shook with fear. He kept repeating 'Don't talk about it! Don't talk about it!'. The monster was believed to be an omen of bad luck or even death."

Coincidentally [or was it?] the reason Rev Powell's friend were not with him during the sighting was that the brother-in-law of the lady with whom they were staying had died that very morning. His friends had driven her to the house of mourning, leaving him beside the loch alone to meet the dragon.

## PART TWO:

A couple of months ago the CFZ were e-mailed several pictures purporting to be of the Loch Ness Monster. The person who sent them did not leave a name and did not reply to e-mails requesting further information.

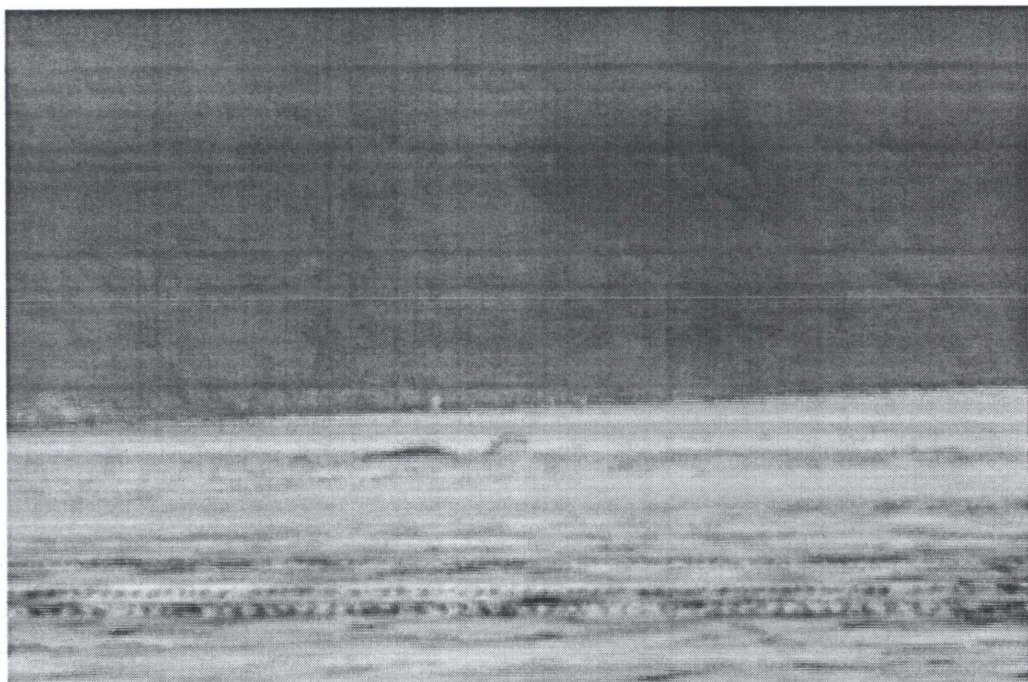
The sender said that they had taken the shots from a lay by above the loch. They had been driving along and saw something in the water. They pulled over and took three pictures before the creature disappeared.

The pictures seem to show an object with the classic "Nessieform" shape, a humped back and snaky neck. A road is clearly visible in the background as is a buoy.

Richard Freeman showed the pictures to the gentleman who took the Loch Ness film shown on our website.

He believed them to be fake. Firstly the angle at which they are taken is too low to be from a lay by above the Loch. They look as if they were taken from a boat. Also the width of the visible water is to slight for it to have been taken from were the witness said it was.

So there it stands. Without further information there is little we can do but it appears that, like several recent pictures of "Nessie", that these shots are fabrications.



1. The object is showing the typical preconceived “Nessieform” outline.
2. The angle of the object to the camera, and the width of the water makes it unlikely that these shots are genuine.





## Who's gonna help our Jeff?

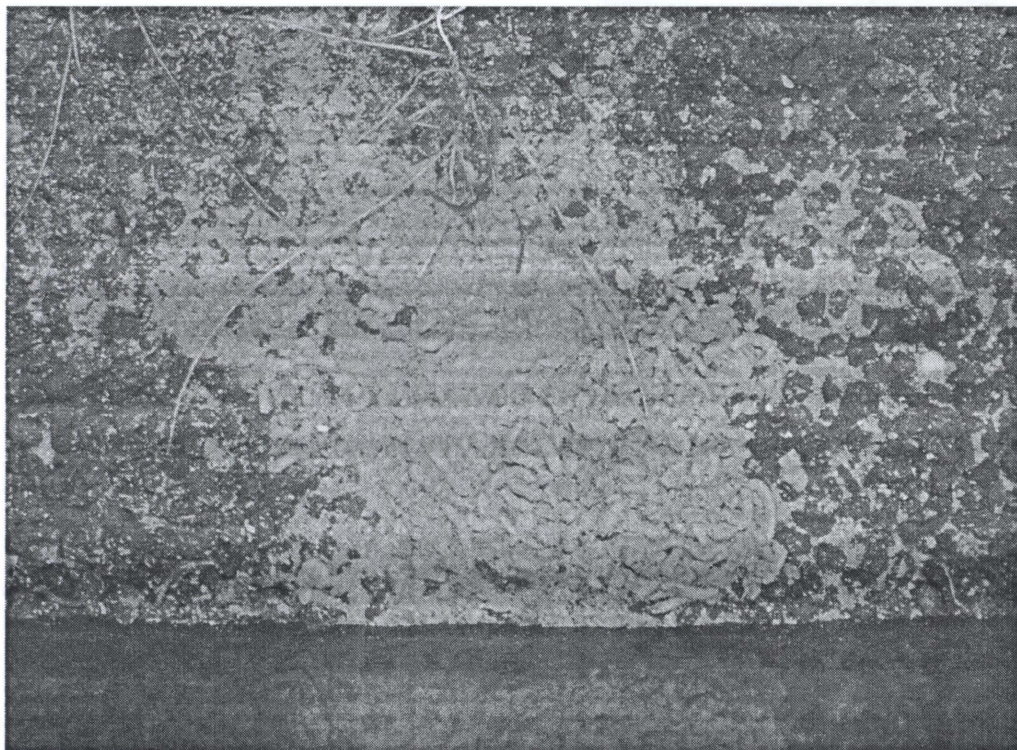
As those of you who follow the bizarre world of the CFZ finances will know, for the past few years most of our legitimate funding has come from a geezer called Simon Wolstencroft who is the editor of a wholesome family magazine called *Tropical World*. During the past few years, we have become part of the Tropical Fish Mafia, and I suppose that it was only a matter of time before we became consulted on a mildly intriguing biological mystery.

Late last year the editorial posse were contacted by Jeff Walmsley, the man who has justly been described as the guru of aquarium plant

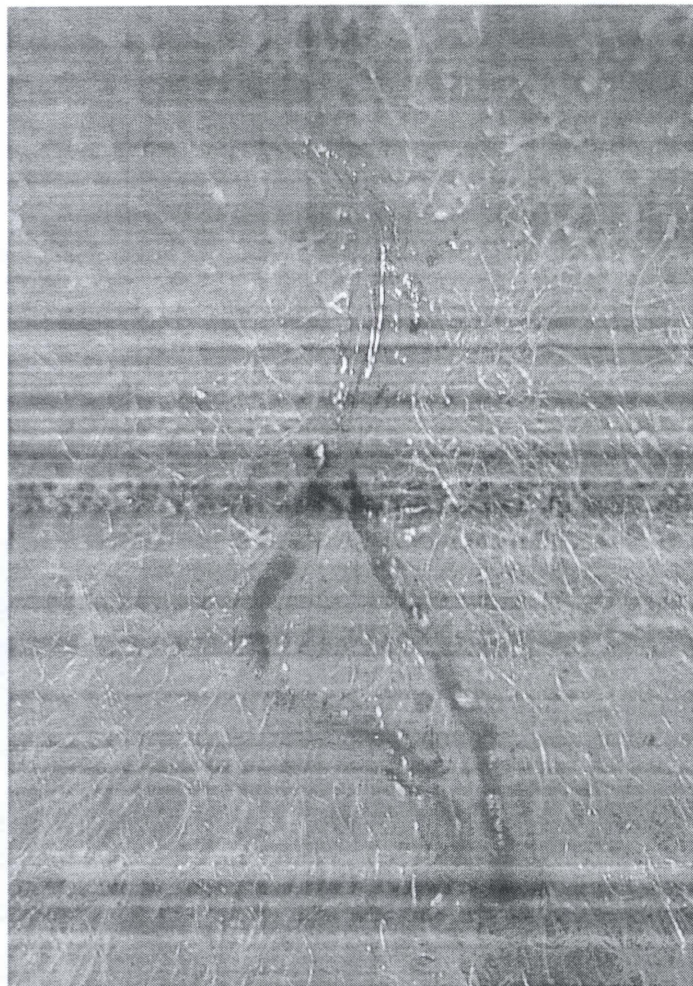
husbandry in the UK. He had a problem and wrote:

*"I wonder if one of your professional friends could solve a small mystery for me ? The attached photo shows worm casts which appeared in my 11-footer some 3 or 4 months after setting up.*

*The size of the casts can be judged by the new hairgrass plants just inserted, and have so far appeared in just this one locality right up against the front glass. Although the substrate is covered by a front panel, removal of the panel reveals no miscreant in view.*







*The substrate is garden soil covered by black quartz gravel. The soil was taken from a four-year-old, totally dried-out stack of rotted down lawn turves. No possibility of any aquatic creature living in that; there weren't even garden worms, it was so dry. When I first noticed it a couple of weeks ago, I syphoned out all the gravel and underlying soil from that place, hoping to suck out the creature with it, leaving a 6" crater. I didn't find anything in the debris, nor could I see*

*find anything in the debris, nor could I see anything in the hole. The casts reappeared in exactly the same spot after about a week or ten days. For my next attempt, I have it in mind to isolate the patch from the rest of the substrate with a box arrangement; but the trouble is, the undersoil heating cables won't allow me to penetrate right to the bottom glass, so it may or may not be successful.*

*I can only assume that whatever it is came in with plants. All I put in this spot were dwarf chain swords, which came bare rooted, but may, I suppose, have carried eggs or larvae or cysts. I know absolutely nothing about aquatic substrate life, tropical or temperate, and have never had such an experience before, although I have found thin, red worms about 1 to 1.5in long in filters a few years back. Any kind of advice and information would be most appreciated."*

To my great surprise, no-one was able to help Jeff with his little query, so when - just before Christmas - I decided to write to him and offer the services of the CFZ readership,

I was pleased to find that there had been a new twist to the mystery. He wrote to the entire *Tropical World* crew:

*"Very many thanks to those who endeavoured to throw some light on my mystery worms. I still haven't been able to view the creature(s) but I have now found narrow tunnels in the substrate against the glass; and I have found a worm in the*



*filter of an older tank, which, all things considered, seems likely to be the same culprit, although it's never manifested itself with worm-casts in the older tank as in the one under consideration; however, this may be because the former has very coarse pea-gravel, whilst the latter has a very fine gravel.*

*A photo of the filter-dwelling worm is attached; it appeared to be dead when I found it, but I doubt it was the only one. At present, having syphoned off the worm-casts from the new tank, no more have appeared for a few days, so I await any further events... Nothing on earth will persuade me to take down this tank, so worms and me will just have to learn to live with each other".*

He wrote to me personally:

*"I can add a little bit to the story if you like; I first found these worms in this same filter a couple of years ago, then living in the coarse foam. They were a uniform reddish-brown, very much alive, and extremely agile, disappearing into the foam interior with alacrity when capture was attempted.*

*However, I did catch one, and tried to feed it to my Black Widows; but it escaped from the tweezers, and swam off, exactly like a snake swims. I didn't photograph them then, I'm afraid, nor the second time I found one in the same foam, a few months later. The latest one is the first I've seen in a year or more. I've no idea how they could get into the filter."*

So, there we have it. He has promised to let us have a specimen if he ever manages to catch another, and there - for the moment at least - the matter rests.

The CFZ is about investigating mystery animals, whether they are big - like the Loch Ness Monster - or small - like the mystery denizens of Jeff Walmsley's fishtank. So, it's over to you. Is there anyone in the CFZ readership who is gonna be able to help our Jeff?

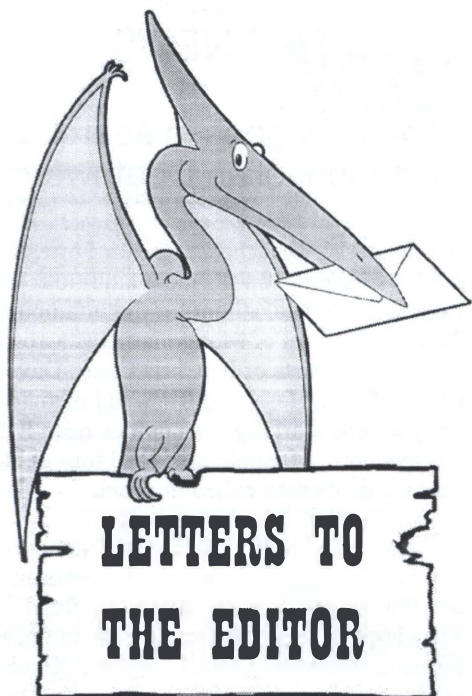
## CFZ NEWS

### The CFZ goes in search of the Mongolian Deathworm

In May of this year the Centre for Fortean Zoology embarks on it's most ambitious expedition to date, a hunt for the infamous Alghoi Khorkhoi or Mongolian Deathworm. The team consists of Dr Chris Clark, Dave Churchill, Jon Hare, and Richard Freeman. They will be working with guides from E-Mongol.com, Mongolia's official tour guides led by a gentleman called Byamba.

The expedition will travel to the Southern Gobi in the hope of capturing deathworms and bringing them back alive to England! They hope to flush the creatures from under the sands by making small localized floods by damming small streams in the area. They will also be interviewing witnesses. The team will have leaflets distributed prior to the trip offering rewards to anyone who can secure a specimen.

The Deathworm is said to spit a yellow acidic saliva and to generate lethal blasts of electricity. Team leader Richard Freeman believes these powers to be apocryphal. He thinks the Deathworm may be a giant worm-lizard (*Amphisbaenia*) or a sand boa. In the Sudan the natives go in mortal terror of a deadly snake they call the Apris. They think it is so venomous that merely touching it will kill them. In reality, it is a harmless sand boa. Whatever the Deathworm is, one thing is certain: it is a species totally unknown to science.



The editor and his band of merry men welcome an exchange of correspondence on any subject of interest to readers of this magazine. We reserve the right to edit letters, and would like to stress that the opinions voiced are those of the individual correspondent rather than being necessarily those of the editorial team or the Centre for Fortean Zoology.

Every attempt is made not to infringe upon anyone's moral rights or copyright, and we apologise if we have unwittingly done so.

## THE NEW SOFT SHOE

Dear Editor,

I recently received the following email:

"Hi,

*I saw your entry on the BBC Devon website about wolves. I know it was written a couple of years ago, but just incase your still interested, i wanted to say that me and my partner were travelling back on the A30 road at around 10-11pm, and it was pitch black. Just before, to around the beginning of the top of the Dartmoor forest area, and about 2m in front of our car a wolf (or a very scraggy husky!) stepped into our headlight, it had been crossing the road. We swerved at 80 or so mph and managed to avoid hitting it, it was standing right in front of the driver's side of the front part of the car and froze when it stepped into the headlights for a while. The driver said it was most definitely a wolf and its eyes were reflecting in the headlight. I know there aren't supposed to be wolves in England but if you know of any other facts, sightings etc, i would be interested to know these.*

*Miss Harvey"*

Best wishes

Paul Williams.

## HICKORY WIND

Dear Jon,

I thought that the following might be of interest:

### NAMES OF HYBRID ANIMALS

These are names of hybrids whose existence is not in doubt:

beefalo: bison+cow

blynx: bobcat+lynx



bukht: Bactrian camel+Arabian camel  
 cama: camel+llama  
 caraval: caracal+serval  
 cat(t)alo: bison+cow  
 chausie cat: jungle cat+cat  
 coydog: coyote+dog  
 coywolf: coyote+wolf  
 dogote: dog+coyote  
 hinny: stallion+female donkey  
 huarizo: male alpaca+female llama  
 jaglion: jaguar+lion  
 khaing: yak+cow  
 leopon: leopard+lioness  
 liger: lion+tigress  
 li-liger: lion+liger  
 li-tigon: lion+tigon  
 marlot: ocelot+margay  
 misti: female alpaca+male llama  
 mule: jackass+mare  
 ortoon: yak+zomo  
 pumapard: puma+leopard  
 t'aqa: llama+alpaca resembling alpaca  
 tigard: tiger+leopardess  
 tigon: tiger+lioness (also tiglon)  
 ti-liger: tiger+liger  
 ti-tigon: tiger+tigon  
 usanguzee: ortoon+ either bull or male yak  
 warilla: lama+alpaca resembling llama  
 wolfdog: wolf+dog  
 wolphin: dolphin+whale  
 yakalo: bison+yak  
 zebrinny: stallion+female zebra  
 zebroid: stallion+female zebra  
 zebrula: male zebra+mare (also zebrule)  
 zedonk: male zebra+female donkey  
 zeehorse: male zebra+mare  
 zetland: male zebra+female Shetland pony  
 zinny: male zebra+mare  
 zo: male yak+cow hybrid  
 zomo: female yak +cow hybrid  
 zonkey: male zebra+female donkey  
 zony: zebra+pony (also zeony)  
 zorse: male zebra+mare

Yours,  
 Ronan Coghlan,  
 Bangor, NI

## IN MY HOUR OF DARKNESS

Hi Jon,

I just finished reading your article, "Monster Hunter", in the Sept/Oct 2004 issue of Phenomena magazine. This is very interesting to say the least. I am very keen on this subject myself as I have witnessed paranormal events including UFO's. I was born and raised in Miami, Florida, and have known about The "Skunk Ape Legend" for many, many years. I knew a guy in high school who claims to have seen one crossing The Tamiami Trail in the middle of the night in 1972/73. There is also a Skunk Ape museum on the Tamiami Trail right out in the middle of The Everglades I have visited on more than one occasion. Tamiami Trail, (also known as State Road 41), goes between Tampa and Miami, hence the name "Tamiami". I would like to tell you about a rather strange experience I had in 1997. My brother, Rob, lives in The Big-Bend area of Florida. The name of the nearest town, about six miles to the north of his residence, is called Sopchoppy, Florida - about 45 miles south of Tallahassee, Florida, the state capital.

At the time of July, 1997, I had been living with my wife and two children in the mountains of extreme NE Georgia, in a small town called Young Harris, Georgia. When the marriage finally dissolved, I drove back to Miami to live once again and gather my life back together. On the way to Miami, I stopped at my brothers house to hang out for a week. Its a real peaceful place kind of out in the woods nearly bordering The Apalachicola National Forest. He wasn't home during this week so I was by myself. Rob's house is about 200 meters from The Ochlocknee River, that eventually ends in The Gulf of Mexico, about 10-12 miles down river.

Well one night I was chilling by myself, having a few brews and jamming out with his killer stereo. It was around midnight when I went out to the front porch to have a smoke. The front porch was outside the front door, but screened in. I sat down

on the swing for a moment and noticed the worse horrible smell I've ever experienced. It was a truly animal smell but not a skunk or a bear. I have been close to both such critters before and this wasn't the same smell.

It wasn't a dead-body smell either. It smelled like ten, (or so), of the worst smelling human slob all put together. Like they hadn't bathed in years! Needless to say, I didn't stay out there on the porch for very long. I was truly scared! I did look around though before going back in the house but didn't see anything but did take notice of the stillness prevailing outside.

About seven or eight years prior to that experience I had, my brother Rob told me that the neighbors who live right on the river saw some strange red-glowing lights in the area.

I am familiar with all the type of creatures mentioned in the article you're in except the Orang-Pendek in Sumatra. I have been past there on a ship once on my way to Singapore. You see, I was a sailor for sixteen years, a civilian, non-military. I have been around the world over four complete times and seen a lot of strange things. I wonder if you've ever heard this one: This comes from an article I got from a website on the Internet. I believe its called Miami Ufo Center. The article is entitled, "Telepathic Football Threatens Chilean Teens". This episode was contended to have happened on the 12th of January 2002 in the central area of Villa San Rafael in Calama, Chile. I will quote an exact paragraph from this event so if you've never heard of it... The scene leads up to two teens who had lost a pet snake around 23:45...

"They searched for the pet snake together when suddenly, at about 30 meters from where they stood, they saw what appeared to be a stray dog. They immediately picked up rocks to throw at it to avoid an attack. However, to their surprise, the animal stood there, motionless and fearless; it did not get scared nor did it run away as ordinary dogs normally do. Shortly afterwards, the strange animal began to move towards them. The movements it made as it walked were very strange. It used two legs at a time. It made very small and short leaps

like a rabbit. Suddenly, it stopped and it stood up on two legs. The teenagers shortly began to feel some kind of energy. "It was like an electrical shock in the stomach," they said. It later walked again (upright) making a loud dragging noise, making small leaps and only moving one of its legs. They thought that it might have been hurt after they threw rocks at it. They noticed the weird shape of the animal. "It was like a rugby football with legs," one of them said.

I have spent years researching the subject of strange events and would love to get more involved. I am very interested in what you do too. So sorry that this email has turned out to be so long. If there is any way that I may become part of your studies then please let me know. I know you must be a very busy man but will truly appreciate it if you get back to me on this. Please reply at your leisure.

Kindest Regards,  
Dave Shakespeare

## THE RETURN OF THE GREVIOUS ANGEL

Dear Jon,

I recently received this report from one of my correspondents:

*"This happened to myself, my sisters and a group of friends when we were young. It must have been about 1981 and we were having a picnic in bluebell wood, just near Caddington which is near Luton.*

*Halfway through the picnic, our friend Gary stood up, stared and pointed. We didn't know what was wrong with him but we all looked.*

*What we saw was a tall (about 8'), dark, brown/black creature. It had red eyes, pointy ears on top of its head and seemed to be a cross between a man a bird and a bear.*



*It started gliding towards us and seemed to be levitating on a yellow light.*

*We started to run, and what I remember most was that it seemed impossible to run. Almost like you were being pulled back towards it.*

*We broke out of the wood and into an open corn field. As we all ran across the corn field we could see the yellow glow staying within the trees and skirting round the field. It was travelling fast and it was a race between us getting straight across and it going all the way round.*

*We got to the other side and ran through a large tunnel (which goes under the M1 and leads into Runley Road, Luton). The far side of the tunnel was covered by a massive iron grill, but there was a gap which was just big enough for us kids to slip through.*

*We all got through and kept running. But we heard the huge iron grate being shook behind us and an awful screeching noise (which was amplified by the tunnel).*

*I'll never forget how terrifying the whole thing was and my sister and I occasionally talk about it (but prefer not to because you end up sounding like a complete nut). The following days we would look out of our bedroom windows, over towards bluebell wood because we were convinced the Thing was alien. And yes, two nights later we saw a light zip across the sky and zoom off in a flash"*

What do you think?

Nick Redfern,  
Dallas, TX

## HEARTS ON FIRE

Hi Jon,

Having recently read *Three Men Seeking Monsters* by Nick Refern, I wrote him an email concerning my own personal experience

regarding an unknown creature. He has given me your email address because he thinks you will be interested.

My name is Richard Moore, I'm 26 and live on the border in a small village called Aughnacloy in Northern Ireland.

My experience happened on a Halloween night. I can't remember my age, 8 or 9 maybe. My mum was lighting sparklers for me in our backyard. She had just gone back into the house when I heard a massively loud squawking from above. I looked up and there was this low flying huge dinosaur type bird.

The bird was a concrete grey in colour. It had a long pointy beak and huge wings. It looked so very like those prehistoric dinosaur birds (can't remember their name.) I soon lost view of it as it passed over the roof of our three story house. It was heading south in the direction of the border. Our house is on the main street and I often wonder did anyone else hear or see it.

The squawking is what alerted me to the bird and as soon as I heard it I knew that it wasn't "normal". The whole thing is fresh in my mind like as if it only happened yesterday. I will never forget it. I have seen or heard nothing like it since.

I instantly knew that this has something to do with it being Halloween and that whatever it was, was not of this world. From then on I've always knew in my heart that the association of the paranormal and supernatural to Halloween is not a myth. I am being honest and truthful about what I saw that Halloween night. I was witness to something that most people wouldn't believe. But it was as real as I am sitting here now typing this email. I know it is asking too much to get an answer to what I saw. But to understand it a little bit more would be good.

Also of interest to you in my area are the reports of a Black Cat-like animal. I have not experienced it personally. But farmers and the general public

have apparently witnessed it. Its known here as the Border Beast. The sightings have been reported in the local paper on numerous occasions and if my memory serves me correct also on the local news. From what I gather, the police were also taking it seriously. There have been reports throughout the past 12 years with the latest being less than a year ago.

Nick has recommened your book *"The Owlman and Others"*, and I'll be sure to check it out.

Thanks for taking the time to read this.

Kind Regards

Richard Moore

## \$1000 DOLLAR WEDDING

Dear Jon,

I was just forwarded the following, that may interest you - a report very similar to the Glastonbury Gargoyle chapter from Three Men. How curious that it should occur in the same week as the book was published and the location is about 10 minutes drive from where I used to live in the UK. That's exactly what happened with the Cannock Chase Bigfoot story I wrote up for Three Men - someone saw one under similar circumstances after I thought about writing it in the book. Could be a hoax but then again it could be further evidence of ongoing weirdness.

### WINGED WIERDIE SEEN IN WEST MIDLANDS, UK

On Monday, March 8, 2004, at 9:30 p.m., Steve Nicklin and a friend "were walking across" Northcote Farm in Wolverhampton, West Midlands, UK "nearby an old Tudor farmhouse" when "me and a friend saw a humanoid greyish figure with a human-type head standing in a tree (part of many trees that border the farm; these were tall pine trees, and the figure stood in the top branches--S.N.) We estimated its size at around 7

feet (2.1 meters). It had two legs and two arms connected to membrane-type wings. Its clawed arms seemed connected to these wings, a bit like a pterosaur. It moved its head and looked directly at us, since the moon was full and there were street lights not far away (the farm is near a heavily-used road--S.N.). It turned its head from us, took one giant leap and glided to the next tree. The tree bent under this creature's weight as it took the impact."

"It then turned its head to look at us once more. Its gaze felt that it could look into our very being. We both felt quite scared (even though my friend is an ex- artillery officer in the Territorial Army and has done a lot of night patrols--S.N.) We both fled quickly. We sat down and discussed what we had seen. It was a creature the like" of which "we had never seen before nor want to ever see again."

Yours,

Nick Redfern,  
Dallas, TX

## LOVE HURTS

Dear Jon

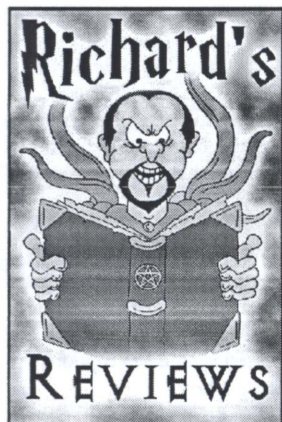
Several years ago in Oxford's Radcliffe Science Library I came across a reference to a British tortoise and I thought you might be interested in the information. In the issue of *Countryside* dated July 21st 1906 there is a reference to the acclimatization of the River tortoise in the Thames valley and elsewhere in England. It was carnivorous with a dark shell with bright yellow dots.

Somewhere in my files I have more substantial records of "British" tortoise but I have not been able to trace my reports.

All the best,

Richard Muirhead  
Macclesfield





*Magnificent Survivor:  
Continued Existence of  
the Tasmanian Tiger*  
"Tigerman"  
(privately published).

There have been several books written on the

possible survival of the thylacine, but this is by far the best. It is available on the Internet at [www.users.bigpond.com/tigerbook](http://www.users.bigpond.com/tigerbook)

The author remains anonymous and his work is fully available for free. He seeks no fame or money for his work; just a wider understanding of the thylacine and a hope that the powers-that-be will be jugged out of their apathy.

After four years in the bush Tigerman had two sighting of thylacines and has studied them closely ever since. This book explodes the myths

and mistakes made by previous authors. He really struck a chord with me when he notes that only about four in depth books on the animal have ever been written. The so-called experts on the thylacine have based their knowledge on these books. Many dismiss the animals continued

existence from their ivory towers without setting foot in the wilderness. Amen to that.

Tigerman also believes there is a conspiracy of silence from Tasmanian officials for political reasons. Whilst the officials do nothing, more thylacine habitat is being lost to logging companies.

The book is broken into three parts. The first looks at how the thylacine initially survived heavy persecution, a recovery plan for it, possible population status and destitution, and a look at the creature's behavior. Part Two also looks at locating the animal, the impact of imported species and logging, and the question of possible future cloning.

The book rounds off with interviews with two thylacine champions, Col Baily and Ned Terry.

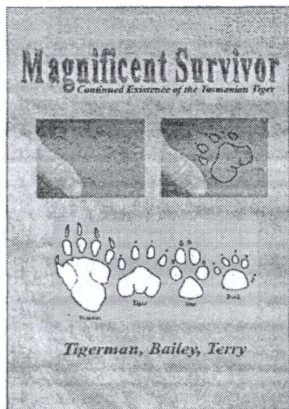
What puts this work head and shoulders above its peers is its practicality. It is a useful list of the dos and don'ts of searching for thylacines. It will save much time and effort for future expeditions

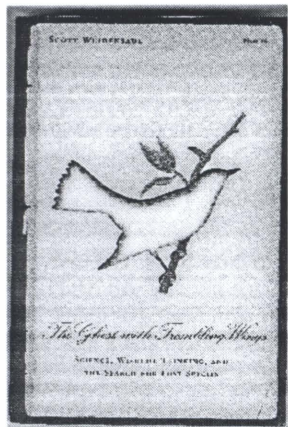
*The Ghost With Trembling Wings:  
Science, Wishful Thinking, and the  
Search for Lost Species* Scott  
Weidensaul

(North Point Press ISBN 0-374-24664-5)

A grand tour around the world in search of creatures believed to be extinct but that are possibly hanging on. An enthralling book that begins on the Caribbean island of St Lucia with a search for Stemper's Warbler a small brown bird that may or may not still flit around the Edmond Forest Reserve. The author moves on to look for other, better known "ghost species" such as the great ivory-billed woodpecker, the eastern puma, and the thylacine.

Along the way he also take in the story of the black-footed ferret. This little predator was once





thought extinct only to be rediscovered. The story of its conservation since is a roller coaster of ups, downs, and ups again that really makes you think what might be in store if other poorly known species are rediscovered. Weidensaul examines the efforts to back-

breed the

extinct auroch from primitive strains of cattle and the current quagga project using Burchell's zebra as a starting point.

He examines several cryptids in a chapter entitled *Cruising the Crypto Fringe*. The included giant apes, ground sloths, and lake monsters. He is quite even handed and generally runs along a middle line of neither belief or dismissal. He was, however, highly dubious of the Beast of Bodmin. At first this may seem odd. British big cats are one of the least contentious mystery beasts. When you read that he has been interviewing Mike Thomas, the penny drops!

An excellent book, if a little downbeat in places, as Weidensaul tends to err slightly more on the side of caution than myself.

*The Loch* Steve Alten  
(Tsunami ISBN 0-9761659-0-2)

A number of novels have been written about the Loch Ness Monster. Until now all of them took the popularist and highly unlikely view that the Monster was some kind of prehistoric reptile. When a review copy of *The Loch* landed on my doormat I sighed expecting another hack horror on a par with "The Crabs" or "The Rats".

Imagine my surprise when I discovered a superbly written, gripping book, with a biologically feasible monster. Moreover what Alten had written in a work of fiction was startlingly close to my own theories on the nature of the Loch Ness Monsters and their kin in other northern lakes. I almost dropped the book in surprise!

The story follows a marine biologist Zack Wallace who is trying to film giant squid in the Sargasso Sea. He encounters some unidentified monsters in the deep that destroy his sub and almost kill him. This unearths suppressed memories of a drowning / attack in Loch Ness as a boy.

Zack is called to Scotland to be a witness in the trial of his estranged father who is accused of murder. His father insists the victim was killed by Nessie herself! Zack initially dismisses his father's story but soon finds out that something is very wrong with the ecology of the Loch and that something big, hungry, and dangerous is lurking in the peat stained waters.

The film rights for the book are currently being developed. I can only hope the flick is as good as the book. Unmissable.

*Monsters Are Real!* Ken Gerhard  
(Twotone Publications)

I have competition. I can no longer claim to be the world's only gothic cryptozoologist. Texan Ken Gerhard is not only an excellent cryptozoologist but is the front man with the wonderfully named Goth band Bozo Porno Circus. I've been listening to his music whilst writing for weeks now.

Ken is no slouch in the writing department as this self-published book proves. Bringing experience and research from South and Central America, Australia, Loch Ness, and the Galapagos to bear on his work.

Ken's book is essentially a mini "On The Track of



Unknown Animals" with chapters that deal with mystery apes, little people, sea and lake monsters, modern dragons, giant specimens of known animals, and creatures wrongly presumed to be extinct. The whole glorious crypto-menagerie is covered from Hebradian mermaids to giant baboons. From undiscovered freshwater seals to giant condors. You name a cryptid and Ken's covered it.

He is no armchair monster hunter (as his Belize report this issue shows) and he has released a DVD ("Monsters are Real") of his investigations (see review below). All in all a great addition to the all to slim ranks of cryptozoology.

### *Big Cat Mysteries of Somerset* Chris Moiser

(Bossiney Books ISBN 1-899383-78-6)

The third of Chris's crypto titles for Bossiney, this is a glossy attractive little book that is sure to catch the eyes of holiday makers this summer. The titular county has always been a hotspot for big cat sightings. There is something very accessible about British big cats. The general public cannot usually afford to mount expeditions to exotic places searching for exotic monster. But most people could get to the southwest for a week with a haunch of meat and a camera, hang around the woods and moors at night and hope to get lucky. It's a little adventure everyone can participate in.

Chris chronicles the history of exotic cats in the area from the traveling menageries of Victorian times to the present day. Each flap is covered such as the Beast of Brassknocker Hill, the Monster of the Mendips, and of course the Beast of Exmoor.

An excellent map of

sightings and livestock kills is provided for those interested in tracking the creatures. There is also a useful section that gives tips on big cat watching. And Chris is experienced in Big Game. An old Africa hand he has traveled in Rhodesia, Zambia, Botswana, and the Gambia so he knows his onions. A great little book.

### *Monsters Are Real* (DVD)

Ken Gerhard

Ken has filmed some of his adventures and put them on a DVD. Follow his expeditions through the southern states on the track of modern-day legends. One of the creepiest moments is in a Louisiana Bayou at night. Ken and our old mate Chester Moore are on the track of skunk apes or "swamp boogers". They find prints, and dead animals. Then out of the darkness comes a weird panting noise. Even Chester balks at investigating.

Ken also talks to a thunderbird witness and uncovers an unrecorded thunderbird attack. There seem to be two distinct types of thunderbird, one bird like, the other reptilian.

Other quests include giant man eating catfish (shades of Martin Mere) and giant snapping turtles. Although the film quality is not quite up to the BBC Natural History Unit these are excellent on-the-spot records of real investigations. With guys like Ken and Chester around, the cryptids of the US better look out.

### *Monster Hunter*

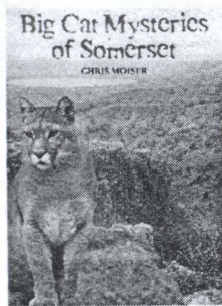
Jonathan Downes

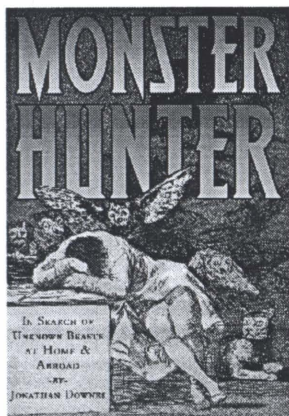
(CFZ Press ISBN: 0951287273)

Monster Hunter is a truly fantastic read.

What makes this book stand out from most other titles that cover broadly similar topics is that it is very much a personal story told from the author's own unique perspective.

Beginning in Hong Kong in the 1960s, Monster Hunter reveals how our hero became fascinated





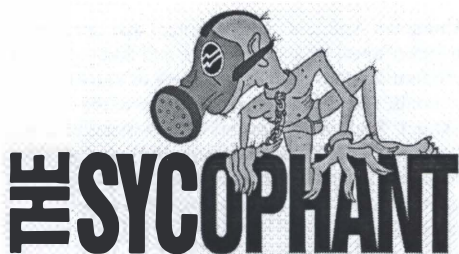
with such beasts as the Yeti, Bigfoot, the Loch Ness Monster and sea serpents, and then heads off to the southwest of England where Downes makes his home and where his adventures begin.

Encompassing tales of ape-men, lake monsters, the hairy wild man of Devon, sinister

characters roaming the woods of England by moonlight, the diabolical Owlman of Mawnan Woods, witches, vampires, werewolves and more, this is a book that should be read by anyone who is interested in cryptozoology or is contemplating entering the field.

Monster Hunter reminds me of what *Lovejoy* might have been like had he engaged in chasing strange creatures instead of antique collecting, and is a joyous, affectionate, dark and nostalgic title that evokes the best of *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas*; *Swallows & Amazons*; the *Narnia* chronicles; *Kolchak: The Night-Stalker*; and a good *Sherlock Holmes* story. It then mixes all of the above ingredients into the pot and spits them out in true in-your-face style.

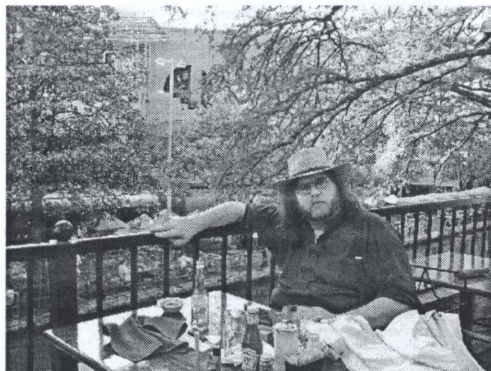
A really great book. NICK REDFERN



Deep in a cave beneath Loch Ness lives a strange figure who steals ideas from other magazines and then somehow makes them his own.

He keeps a jaundiced weather eye on the world of Fortean Zoology and occasionally emerges into the world of men to pour ridicule upon his unsuspecting victims...

## THE JON DOWNES WEIGHT-LOSS PROGRAMME



The more discerning amongst you will have noticed that Senor Editor has lost a considerable amount of weight. He attributes this feat to "cigarettes and diabetes" and recommends that everyone follow his new exercise regime - "do absolutely nothing, eat chocolate 'till your pancreas packs up and then watch the pounds fall off". We await his promised new exercise video with great interest, although time will tell whether, now Suzy ain't around to stop

Members of the CFZ can purchase this new book - the first of our books to be perfect bound - for a special low price of £12.50/\$25.

**Cheques payable to 'Jonathan Downes'**



himeating cake, whether he will continue to be quite as sylph-like as he is at the moment.

## PUBLIC IMAGE LIMITED



Here our hero glowers in a bad tempered manner as some self-styled "hairstylist to the stars" in San Antonio whose barber shop was decorated with pictures of thousands of people Jon had only vaguely heard of, gave him a makeover before his screen-test for *The Discovery Channel*. As the following picture (taken that night with Ken Gerhard and the lovely Lori) shows; the image change did not last long! He was quoted paraphrasing an old hymn: "*Just as I am without one plea, unless it's a ten-parter for the BBC, then they can do what the hell they like with me!*"



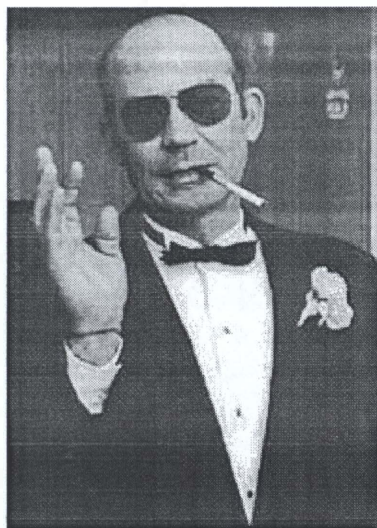
## LANDLORDS

This is getting *really* stupid! Not only has Jon moved back into the CFZ but John Fuller has followed him and moved into Lisa's old penthouse apartment in the attic. 15 Holne Court now has three adult men, a dog, two cats, four snakes, six assorted turtles, two tree frogs, nine Puerto-Rican snails, several Himalayan crocodile newts, a cane toad and a monitor lizard!

## THE DOCTOR LIVES!

The long awaited new series of *Dr Who* has finally hit our screen, and early indications are that it was worth waiting for. Watch out for an episode set in Cardiff. There, lurking suspiciously in the back of one of the crowd scenes is none other than our beloved Oli Lewis (aka *Shearluck*) who spent a whole day trying to get himself on camera before finally (we hope) succeeding. He has been given an official reprimand, however, for not wearing a CFZ shirt at the time!

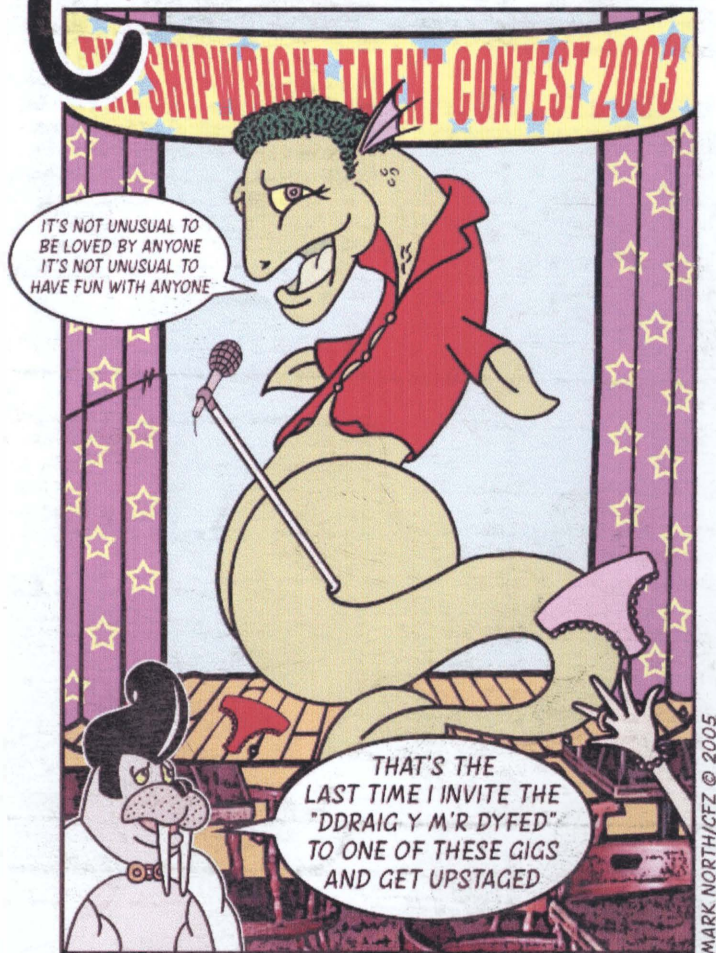
## THE DOCTOR IS DEAD!



Rest in peace you old bastard!

**Hunter Thompson RIP**

# C MARK NORTH'S CRYPTOZOLOGY FILES



LOCATION: THE SHIPWRIGHT PUBLIC HOUSE, PEMBROKE DOCK, WALES

CASE: THE MILFORD MONSTER

DATE: 7TH MARCH 2003

NOTES: PRIOR TO THE RECENT SIGHTING IN THE MILFORD HAVEN WATERWAY, A PHONE CALL FROM ONE OF THE LOCAL RESIDENTS REMEMBERED SOMETHING UNUSUAL ABOUT ONE OF THE CONTESTANTS AT THE PUB'S ANNUAL TALENT CONTEST. HOWEVER THIS WAS LATER DISMISSED AS A CRANK CALL WHEN HIS FRIEND SAID HE SAW "A WALRUS COME INTO THE SHIPWRIGHT DRESSED AS ELVIS!"

Typeset by Yok-Yok  
"What have we fraided ourselves with?"